870 8276

Guards stop sheriffs from seizing 'Boracay' mansion

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, September 5, 2002 ★★ 48 pages / 3 sections / vol.17 / no. 269 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Censors' chief censured, sued

By Leah Salterio

NO EXPENSE is too small for the chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to charge to her office and have reimbursed.

For instance, she submitted for reimburse-

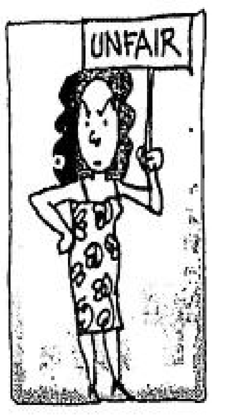
CENSORS'/A13

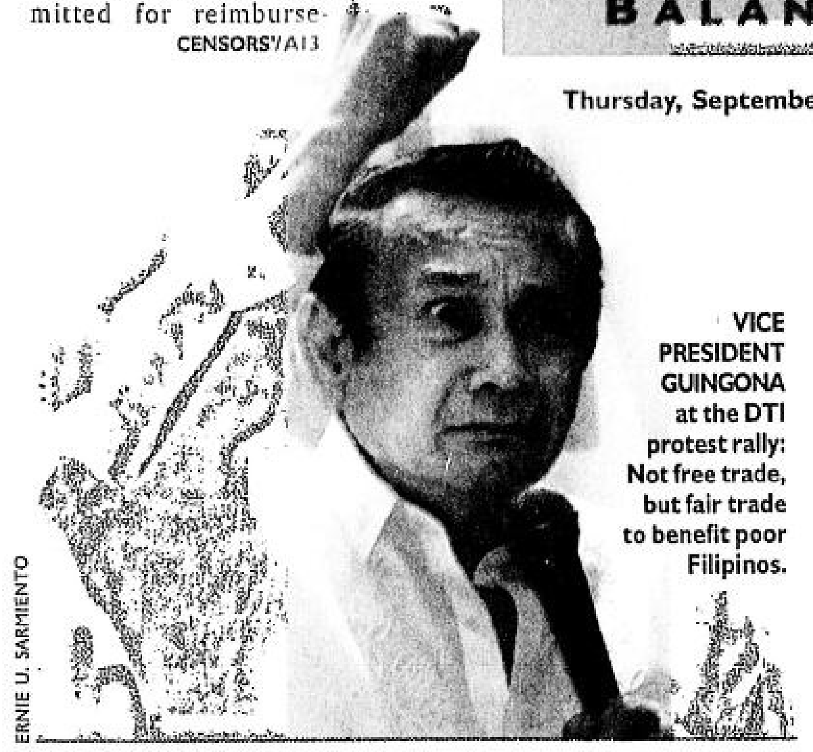
Deaf-mute beauty disqualified

By J. Escandor Jr.
PDI S. Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The uproar that started on Sunday continued to be heard yesterday with a deaf-mute

DEAF-MUTE/A13





VICE PRESIDENT GUINGONA at the DTI protest rally: Not free trade, but fair trade to benefit poor Filipinos.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

EDSA ALLIANCE BREAKING UP

Vice President joins street protest

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil C. Cabacungan

THAT old gang—the Edsa II People Power Coalition—is breaking up.

A day after former Education Secretary Raul Roco fired a broadside against President Macapagal-Arroyo over what he described were her illegal posters, another coalition stalwart blasted her administration for its alleged failure to protect domestic jobs and enterprises.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. joined a protest rally on Wednesday to pressure Ms Macapagal into backing out of an Asean plan to peg at not more than 5 percent the tariff on all goods traded in the region.

"What we need is not free trade, not distorted trade, and not trade policies that are for the rich, but fair trade that will benefit poor Filipinos," Guingona said at the rally outside the Department of Trade and Industry.

The rally was sponsored by the Free Trade Alliance, a motley group of industry, labor and nongovernment organizations opposing the unrestricted entry of imported goods flooding the country.

Guingona resigned in July as foreign secretary over major policy differences with Ms Macapagal, a proponent of a strong US military presence in the country, globalization and trade liberalization.

Roco, who resigned last month as education secretary following a presidential inquiry into a host of charges against him, heads Aksyon Demokratiko. Guingona, on the other hand, serves as president of Lakas-NUCD. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

Both political parties were part of the so-called Edsa II coalition that ousted President Joseph Estrada in 2001 and swept then

VICE/A13

Camps cleaned for show

Real jails dirty, smelly, say Filipino deportees

By Dennisonde Selena Baling, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MENGGATAL, Kota Kinabalu—They broke into tears—nearly all of the 326 Filipinos—when the Philippine fact-finding team entered a detention camp here.

"We are not being held in this camp. It's somewhere below the hill. It's dirty and smells bad," a detainee said.

"We were taken here just a few hours ago before you arrived. They ordered this cleaned. We don't even have our things with us here because we left it in our real detention camp," a 22-year-old female detainee said.

The detainees complained about the food, which they described as "*parang pagkain ng aso* (like dog food)."

"*Tapos minsan lang kami binibigyan ng pagkain* (Then we are seldom given food)," another detainee said.

Despite reports of alleged maltreatment and inhumane living conditions in the detention centers, Nur Jaafar, head of the Philippine delegation, described the conditions of the detainees as "fairly good."

Jaafar was apparently referring to the refurbished camps.

"I would say that the conditions of the deportees under accommodation are fair enough although there is always room for improvement," said Jaafar, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser for Muslim affairs.

"I want conditions for the children and women to be improved in accordance with international law," he said.

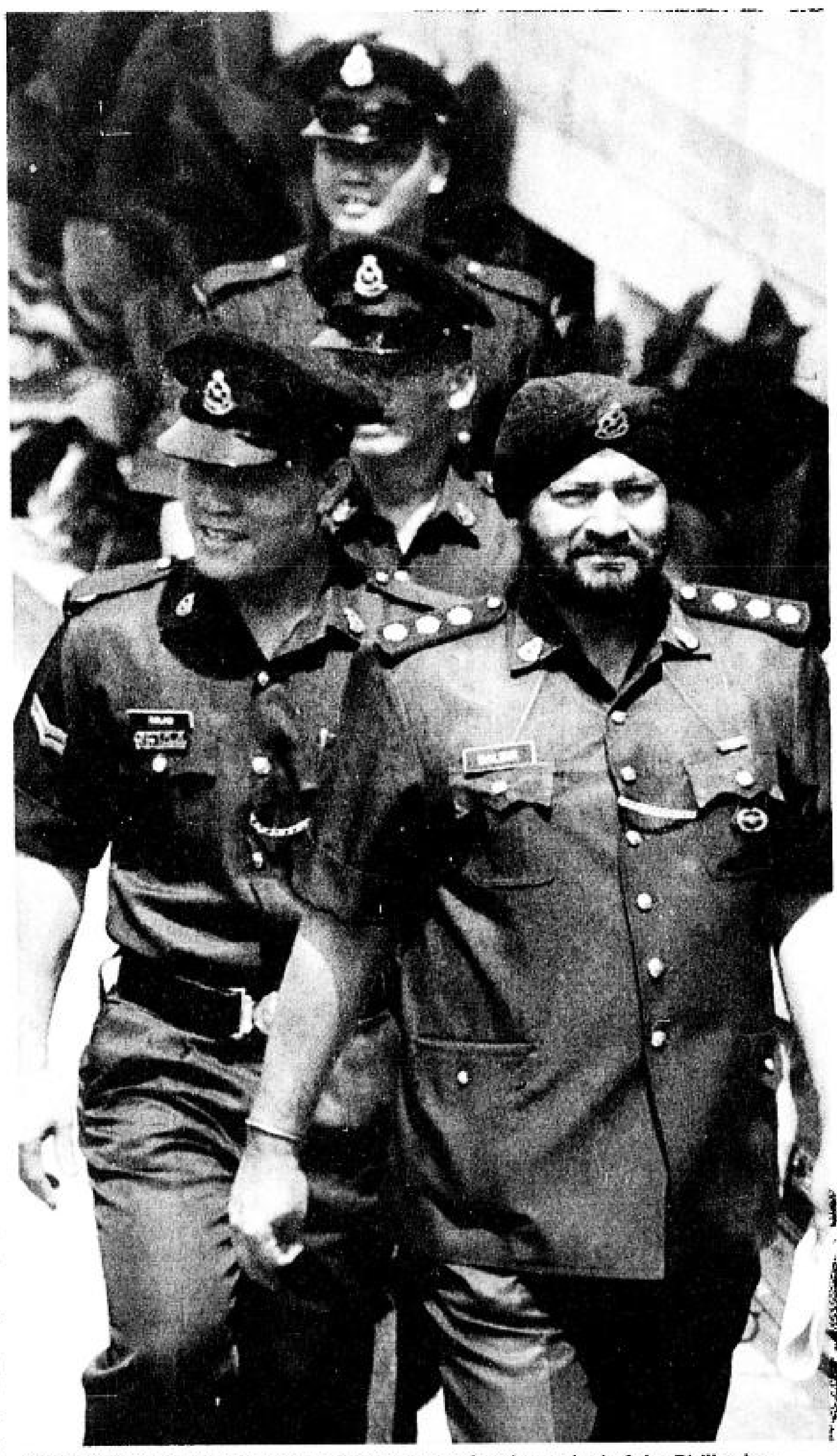
Ms Macapagal has ordered the investigation of the camps after claims by Filipinos being deported in a Malaysian crackdown on illegal migrants that they had been abused at holding centers for illegal immigrants on Borneo Island.

Sabah's Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat has agreed in principle with the proposals of the Philippine mission to improve the conditions of the detainees. The proposals would still have to be approved by both countries.

The proposals include the establishment of more deportation sites for Filipinos, onsite documentation of Filipino repatriates for an early return to the Philippines and the beefing up of Philippine-Malaysian border security.

"I am glad to have discussed with you at great length everything that could improve our bilateral relations," Chong was quoted as saying.

CAMPS/A14



SNAPPY batch of Malaysian police prepares for the arrival of the Philippine mission at the Rumah Merah detention camp in Sandakan, Sabah, where 209 Filipinos are detained. DENNIS SABANGAN

Sex abuse victim found

GMA 'outraged' in letter to Mahathir

By Denissonde Selena M. Baling
in Kota Kinabalu
and Norman Bordadora, *in Manila*

THE PHILIPPINE fact-finding mission has found a Filipino woman, who fell victim to sexual abuse, at a refugee camp in Tawau, Malaysia, where seven policemen had reportedly turned detained Filipino Christian women into sex slaves before deporting them.

Another Filipino deportee, a 13-year-old girl, was earlier reported to have been abused by Malaysian jail guards.

The sexual abuse of the 13-year-old while in detention in Sabah prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to write Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad to express her "personal outrage."

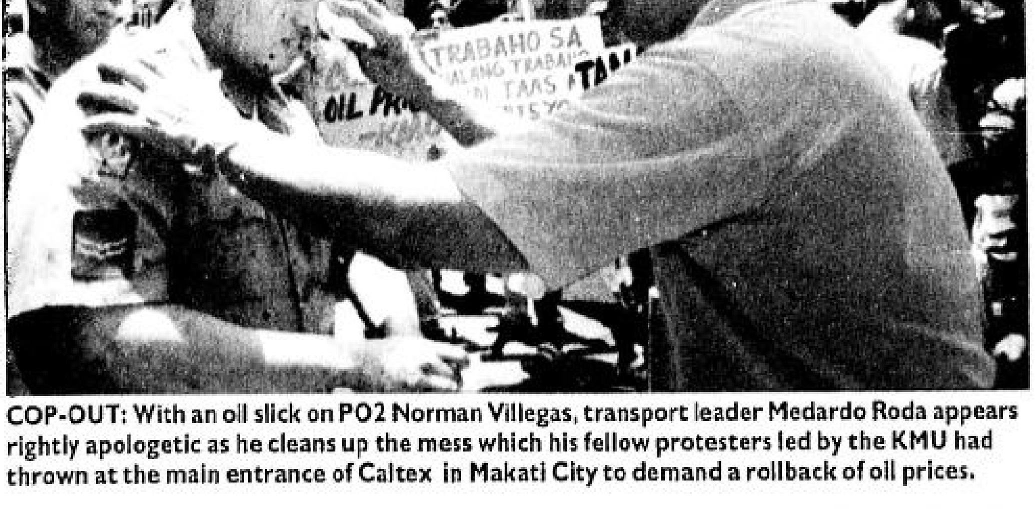
In her letter, Ms Macapagal asked Mahathir for "swift action" on the reported rape in Kota Kinabalu.

"I express my personal outrage and that of the Filipino people (for the dastardly act), which I am sure you will also condemn in the strongest terms," read the President's letter.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the government confirmed the rape of the 13-year-old through a "hospital report" and interview with representatives of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Dr. Al Wajer Himpon identified the girl

SEX/A14



ERNIE U SARMIENTO

COP-OUT: With an oil slick on PO2 Norman Villegas, transport leader Medardo Roda appears rightly apologetic as he cleans up the mess which his fellow protesters led by the KMU had thrown at the main entrance of Caltex in Makati City to demand a rollback of oil prices.

Critics see politics in Defensor appointment

By Martin P. Marfil and Carlito Pablo

THE AIR Force heaved a sigh of relief as what it called the "bizarre and breathtaking" public relations war for the post of Armed Forces chief of staff ended yesterday with the appointment of its commander, Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor.

But AFP officers continued to bristle at the appointment of the younger brother of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, an ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada and a former opposition senator, and the extension of his term up to Nov. 18. They said President Macapagal-Arroyo was engaging in "political accommodation."

"It's obscene," said an officer who pointed out that Defensor had only days left in active service. "Extension is becoming the rule rather than the exception."

An intelligence officer described Malacañang's move as "risky" and said it might destroy the AFP.

Other officers who spoke with defense reporters on condi-

CRITICS/A14

Impeach rap vs Tancangco gathers steam

By Christine Avendaño

THE IMPEACHMENT complaint against Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco passed its first test yesterday, with the House committee on justice deeming it sufficient in form.

Thirty-two committee members voted that the complaint was properly endorsed and verified in accordance with the rules. Three said it was insufficient in form, and five abstained from voting.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the committee, told reporters that it would determine whether the complaint was sufficient in substance at a hearing scheduled in the second week of October, when Congress resumes sessions after a three-week break.

Libanan called on the committee members to carefully read the impeachment complaint so that they could vote on the matter of substance.

Bacolod City Rep. Monico

IMPEACH/A13

RM AWARDEES

They gave up rich careers to help poor

By Blanche S. Rivera

BOTH members of the educated class, they were on the way to becoming engineers, a highly respected profession in their countries. But a bigger, nobler dream intervened.

India's Sandeep Pandey, 37, and Nepal's Bharat Koirala, 60, abandoned promising careers in science to educate their countrymen: Pandey through schools for untouchables that he called Asha (meaning "hope"), and Koirala through the local media for the people of the mountains.

The two men were among this year's recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

The RM Award for emergent leadership was the first formal recognition received by Pandey, a lecturer and social activist whose belief in the Gandhian thinking that "once the path is chalked out, the means will follow," has led him to places far from home and back again.

Reared in an upper-class family in Lucknow, India, Pandey knew only too well the privileges of a high caste. But unlike most of his kind, he felt in-

THEY/A15

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/05/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Boracay' guards hold off sheriffs

By Volt Contreras

COURT sheriffs yesterday afternoon forced their way into the "Boracay mansion" allegedly owned by deposed President Joseph Estrada to enforce the freeze order on the latter's assets issued recently by the Sandiganbayan.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, the guard seems to be telling a team of sheriffs out to enforce the writ of attachment the Sandiganbayan issued against the so-called Boracay mansion allegedly owned by former President Joseph Estrada. VAL HANDUMON

But the sheriffs were prevented from serving the writ of attachment on the New Manila, Quezon City property after its two caretakers insisted the multimillion-peso property belonged to St. Peter's Holdings, and not to Estrada or any of his co-accused in the plunder case before the Sandiganbayan.

Ed Urieta, chief of the sheriff's office, said his men were serving the writ on the "presumption" that "Boracay" belonged either to Estrada's co-accused Jaime Dichaves or to "Jose Velarde," the name Estrada purportedly signed on bank documents.

Tension

Urieta gave the caretakers—identified as Rogelio Sandoval and one known only as Armand, who both claimed to be employees of St. Peter's Holdings—until today to present the documents that would back up their claim about the property's ownership.

In the meantime, the court official asked Quezon City policemen to stand guard around the mansion at No. 100 11th Street to prevent any attempt to cart away its fixtures and other valuables.

Tension greeted the arrival of Urieta and eight of his men at the property at around 4 p.m. as the barking of several German Shepherds could be heard from behind the tall iron gate.

Armand was the first to peek through a small opening on a smaller side gate, asking the sheriffs to wait outside until Sandoval arrived from Cubao. He was ordered to cage the dogs.

After about 30 minutes, Sandoval opened the side door of the main gate. He had apparently entered the property through another gate.

Urieta and his men tried to move in but were blocked by the caretakers who prevented the gate from being pushed wide open. All along, the sheriffs tried to explain their mission and calm the two caretakers.

Sandoval and Armand were eventually overpowered. The sheriffs, along with some members of the media, spilled onto the mansion's driveway.

Sandoval kept his distance from the sheriffs while talking to someone on a cell phone.

At one point, Armand threatened to release the dogs if the members of the press insisted on roaming around to get more shots of the yard.

From the media men's vantage, the huge white sand and wave swimming pool that gave the controversial property its name was hidden from view.

While the mansion itself showed no signs of crumbling, the wide yard was not being maintained, with sweet potato (*kamote*) vines covering parts of the lawn, much of which was devoid of any greenery.

Earlier yesterday, the sheriffs were able to serve writs of attachment on the properties of Dichaves at Corinthian Gardens, Pasig City, and Yolanda Ricaforte at Veterans Village in Quezon City.

'Completely empty'

The home of another Estrada co-accused, Charlie "Atong" Ang, was found "completely empty" when the sheriffs entered it at around 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, according to deputy sheriff Manny Torio.

It will be recalled that at the start of Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate in December 2000, Sen. Joker Arroyo had charged the then President with maintaining a secret bank account under the name "Jose Velarde."

Arroyo then proceeded to trace the movement of a P142-million check issued by "Velarde" to former housing czar and Estrada crony Jose "Sel" Yulo.

The check purportedly ended up in Yulo's bank account and part of the money later funded the acquisition by St. Peter's Holdings of the 7,149-sq. m. property from the Madrigal family for P86 million.

Arroyo had noted that St. Peter's Holdings had been set up by Estrada's lawyer, Edward Serapio, who is one of his co-accused in the plunder case.

Petron hikes oil prices, too

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PETRON announced yesterday it jacked up prices of kerosene by 49 centavos a liter and of gasoline and diesel by 39 centavos a liter, effective 6 p.m. yesterday.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the increase did not reflect the true cost of the products. These, she said, were rather dictated by competition.

Ruivivar said in an earlier interview changes in average Dubai crude prices and the foreign exchange rate indicate that local prices should go up by 42 centavos per liter.

The oil refiner's move came after new players TotalFinaElf Philippines and Eastern Petroleum said they would follow Caltex's lead yesterday.

Caltex and Total hiked prices by the same amount. But Eastern said it increased prices by a uniform rate of 35 centavos only.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum said its management had yet to decide on the matter and that it was holding off any possible announcement of price changes until today.

Seaoil Petroleum and Flying V has still not decided to increase their prices.

Average Dubai crude prices went up by 57 cents from $24.67 per barrel in July to $25.24 in August.

On the other hand, the peso depreciated by P1.20 from P50.62 to the dollar in July to P51.82 last month.

As a rule, local prices would go up by 35 centavos per liter for every dollar increase in Dubai crude prices. Prices would also increase by 18 centavos for every peso lost to the dollar.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, meanwhile, slammed the oil companies anew for the latest round of price hikes.

ALL ABOUT BUSINESS

MBC pals bicker over Piatco

By Rocky Nazareno

WHAT is it in the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) controversy that it has now seemingly driven a wedge among the top honchos of the closely-knit Makati Business Club?

This was the question raised by Senate blue ribbon chair Joker Arroyo who said that he was "amused that because of Piatco, the unity of MBC has been broken."

Arroyo pointed out that the break in the MBC over the Piatco issue came about after the name of Washington Sycip was brought up by Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing last Tuesday.

"(De los Angeles) had strong words against Sycip," Arroyo said.

De los Angeles is a senior partner at the Romulo Mabanta De los Angeles law office, legal counsel for Piatco.

Another senior partner in the law firm is Ricardo Romulo who is president of MBC. Sycip is MBC chair emeritus.

A letter from Sycip to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo was submitted by De los Angeles to the Senate committee which showed the SGV Group founder thanking the Palace official for "receiving Kurt Lauk and Joanne de Asis."

"With your encouragement, they have responded very quickly to the problems of Fraport," Sycip wrote Romulo.

The Sycip letter preceded a series of letters between presidential adviser on strategic projects Gloria Tan Climaco and Fraport officials that led to an "amicable settlement" last month that would allow the Philippine government to buy out the German firm for $400 million and takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport passenger terminal 3.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel underscored that he "wanted to hear what the other side is going to say."

"I understand there was an attempt to gag attorney De los Angeles. This should not be the case if we want to look at the truth. We should hear both sides," Pimentel said.

A Senate observer said it "was interesting to note that there is this disparity within the MBC now."

"(The MBC) has always been known to be one in resolving issues or controversies because of its powerful clout," said the observer who asked not to be named.

In fact, the observer added, "every President is scared of the MBC because of the way it acts as one."

Drop shoe ruckus, Drilon told

By Cynthia D. Balana

DROP IT. Not the shoes but the ruckus.

His colleagues in the Senate yesterday advised their president Franklin Drilon not to make a big deal out of his having been made to take off his shoes at the San Francisco International Airport last Sunday as part of security measures.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the committee on national defense and security, said it was the US government's right to impose security measures in its airports in the light of the terrorist attacks in the country.

Magsaysay said that he, too, had been asked to remove his shoes at the same airport and he had gladly complied.

He said he even thanked the Fil-American screener for allowing him to remove his shoes so his feet could get a breather.

"In fact, he recognized me and kept on saying, 'Sorry, sir. Sorry, sir,'" said Magsaysay, who added that he told the screener not to apologize since he was only doing his job.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said that while Drilon as Senate president had every right to complain about the incident, there did not appear to be any breach of courtesy since the US was just acting to protect plane passengers and its own nationals.

Majority Leader Loren Legarda said she believes no one should be exempted from this policy of the US.

Legarda said she does not mind removing her shoes or having her bag inspected by security guards every time she enters a building.

"In fact, I saw a movie at Rockwell with my children. I passed by the guard without opening my bag. He called me back and he scrutinized the contents of my bag. That was okay," she said.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said what happened to Drilon was no big deal.

She said she, too, was at the San Francisco airport last Sunday and was asked to take her off shoes for inspection. Her bag was also inspected several times.

IMMIGRATE IN CANADA

DON'T BE DECEIVED

SKILLED LABORERS, PROFESSIONALS IN NON MEDICAL OR MEDICAL FIELDS, OFFICE WORKERS. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS SEMINAR

DATE SEPT 7, 2002 (SATURDAY)
PLACE MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL (BINONDO ROOM)
TIME 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TEL 1216211

PUT A BUSINESS IN CANADA

Tips & Suggestion you must not miss. Learn Easiest way!
Must For: Planning to start a Business
Planning to Expand
Exporters & Importers

EARN DOLLARS

Seminar Date Sept 7 2002 (Saturday)
Place Manila Midtown Hotel (Binondo Room)
Time 2:00 PM
Tel. 121-6211

Start with small Capital

Improve Your BUSINESS... Upgrade Your PHONE!
WELCOME DEALERS
Prices from P 2,000 up to P 3,800
PABX
4-Line
Interphone
2-Way Radio
Call for FREE DEMO!
EVERTEL PHILS., CORP.
Tel. #: 715-8114 • 715-7977 • 715-3857 • 715-8151 Fax: 715-8141
Cagayan de Oro: Denki Electric (088) 231-4278 • Fax: (0822) 723-507
Bacolod (branch) 034-4332563 http://www.evertel.biz
EverTel

THE ULTIMATE ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM
Round The Clock Jammin'
Music Mate
Videoke Microphone
- The pioneer, first and original videoke system.
- The only microphone in the world that can record & play your voice. Improve your singing skills. (for silver model)
- With 980 songs built in the microphone.
- You can program and add your favorite songs into your chip.

SING-OUT DISCOUNT
REGULAR PRICE: (Black Model) ~~P 13,000~~
SALE PRICE P 10,500
REGULAR PRICE: (Silver Model) ~~P 15,365~~
SALE PRICE P 13,000
SAVE 19% or AS MUCH AS P2,500.00
Promo period: August 12 to September 30 2002
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT #A3 550 SERIES OF 2002
WITH ONE (1) YEAR WARRANTY
Exclusively Distributed by:
V.G. ROXAS CO., INC.
Main Branch: Unit 7 ANPH Plaza, 1340 EDSA Balintawak, Q.C.
Tel.: 455-5823 to 27 • Fax: 455-5828 E-mail: vlcroxas@info.com.ph
Lot 30, Blk. 7 Sampaguita Ave., Mapayapa Village II Brgy. Holy Spirit Q.C.
Tel.: 427-1875 / 427-0625 • Fax : 427-4073 E-mail: vgrent@info.com.ph

100% Brand New & Recon COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
P18,850. ONLY LIQUID TYPE ENLARGER / REDUCER BEST FOR BUSINESS
P14,999. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3330 For Personal Office Use
P30,500. ONLY BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER FOR OFFICE / COMM'L USE
SALE
Guaranteed Big Savings!!!
Katun TONERS & PARTS
For Use in SHARP, MITA, CANON RISO, TOSHIBA, MINOLTA, ETC
Also Available
• Trade-in (Liquid / Powder Copier)
• Repair of most Copier Brands
• Ink for all Computer Printers
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
Best Offer!
Laminators / Fax
Ringbinders / Cutters
Riso / Gestetner Machines

EASY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!
Steamer for Siopao, Siomai & Dimsum
STAINLESS HYGIENIC DURABLE
Available in 2 sizes:
• 19 1/4" x 15 1/4" x 29 3/4" Cap: 75 siopao
• 15" x 15 1/2" x 29 3/4" Cap: 45 siopao
SALE
Available in Capacities:
• 12 - 16 Chickens/ load (4 spits)
• 18 - 24 Chickens/ load (6 spits)
• 24 - 32 Chickens/ load (8 spits)
INTRODUCTORY SALE
STAINLESS HYGIENIC DURABLE
Chicken Rotisserie LPG
WANTED PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTOR for Cebu, Davao & Bacolod
www.meritstainless.com
Merit Kitchen Showroom
637-1808 • 651-1472 to 75

SEPTEMBER BARGAINS FOR DIABETICS
Special Offers by HEALTH FOR LIFE and WATSONS STORES

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER YOU CAN RECEIVED A PRESTIGE "SMART SYSTEM" BLOOD GLUCOSE METER, LITE TOUCH LANCING DEVICE, LITE TOUCH LANCETS AND SMART CARRYING CASE ABSOLUTELY FREE! WHEN YOU:

A. BUY THREE (3) BOXES OF 50 PRESTIGE BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS FOR p1400.00 each - Total cost p4200.00
B. TRADE IN YOUR OLD METER REGARDLESS OF TYPE OR CONDITION AND BUY ONLY TWO (BOXES OF 50 PRESTIGE TEST STRIPS - Total cost only p2800.00

THE NEW UNI-CHECK BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS THAT WORK EFFECTIVELY IN THE LIFESCAN "ONE TOUCH" METERS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT ONLY P 1200.00 FOR 50 STRIPS COMPARE PRICES AND BUY UNI-CHECK AND SAVE!

NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL WATSONS DRUG STORES IN M.M.

Visit WATSONS today or call 851-3574 /76 for free home delivery in Metro Manila

Mendoza confirmed as DOTC chief

By Rocky Nazareno

MENDOZA

UNLIKE his predecessor in the position, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza's nomination breezed through the Commission on Appointments yesterday.

Mendoza was confirmed together with 22 senior military officers whose promotions were approved.

Mendoza's confirmation came after a two-hour hearing that called to mind the wringer the CA had put his predecessor, Pantaleon Alvarez, through. Alvarez's confirmation was blocked repeatedly by those opposed to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project, among others.

Alvarez eventually resigned.

Also confirmed yesterday were the promotions of Army commander Maj. Gen. Dionisio Santiago and Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina to lieutenant general.

Brig. Gen. Marciano Ilagan, Air Force commander of tactical operations, and Brig. Gen. Alberto Braganza of the Seventh Army Division were promoted to major general and earned their second stars.

Ilagan was the officer who was caught on video last February being carried ashore by a porter following memorial services for 10 American soldiers killed in a Chinook helicopter crash off Negros island.

Ilagan came under fire from various sectors when US Army Master Sgt. Michael Farris, who had also come from the memorial service, unmindfully waded in the water.

Five other officers were promoted to brigadier general rank and another to the rank of commodore.

The Philippine Army now has four new colonels and the Medical Corps six new colonels.

A Marine reserve was also promoted to colonel, while the rank of major general was posthumously awarded to Felipe Gaerlan.

REMINDER

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS (SHJ): Tomorrow, FIRST FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2002.

The SHJ FOUNDATION is giving Statues for Chapels, Schools, Hospitals, Dormitories and other Public Places (NOT for Residences), and pictures with Prayers.

Call Beny or Mr. Carlos 818-0148, Jasmine or Bernadette 843-8830, or write Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The SHJ PROMISED THAT "HE WILL BLESS EVERY PLACE WHERE HIS STATUE OR PICTURE IS SET UP AND HONORED."

HONGKONG 3D/2N 4D/3N Via	Cebu Pacific	$171
	PAL	$199
BANGKOK 4D/3N Via	Kuwait	$215
	PAL	$320
SINGAPORE 4D/3N Via	PAL	$295

PUERTO GALERA 3D/2N P999/pax
WIRT Land & Boat Transfers, Week Day Accommodation at Coco Beach Resort w/ Breakfast & Welcome Drink

BORACAY 3D/2N P5,999/pax
WIRT Airfare, Land & Boat Transfers, Accommodation at Sun Village Hilltop Resort w/ Breakfast & Welcome Drink

OTHER SERVICES OFFERED: • VISA ASSISTANCE • TRVL INS • PASSPORTING • INT'L/DOM TICKETING

(Call us up for more domestic & international packages)

WINTREX
TRAVEL CORPORATION
Email: wintrextravel@hotmail.com
Rm. 301 DM Bldg., Visayas cor. Congressional Aves., Quezon City
(02) 426-4492 • 454-8528 • 454-8562 • 925-7092 • (0917) 839-4948

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)

- Blood Glucose Monitoring System
- Reads MMOL/L or MG/DL
- Easy To Operate

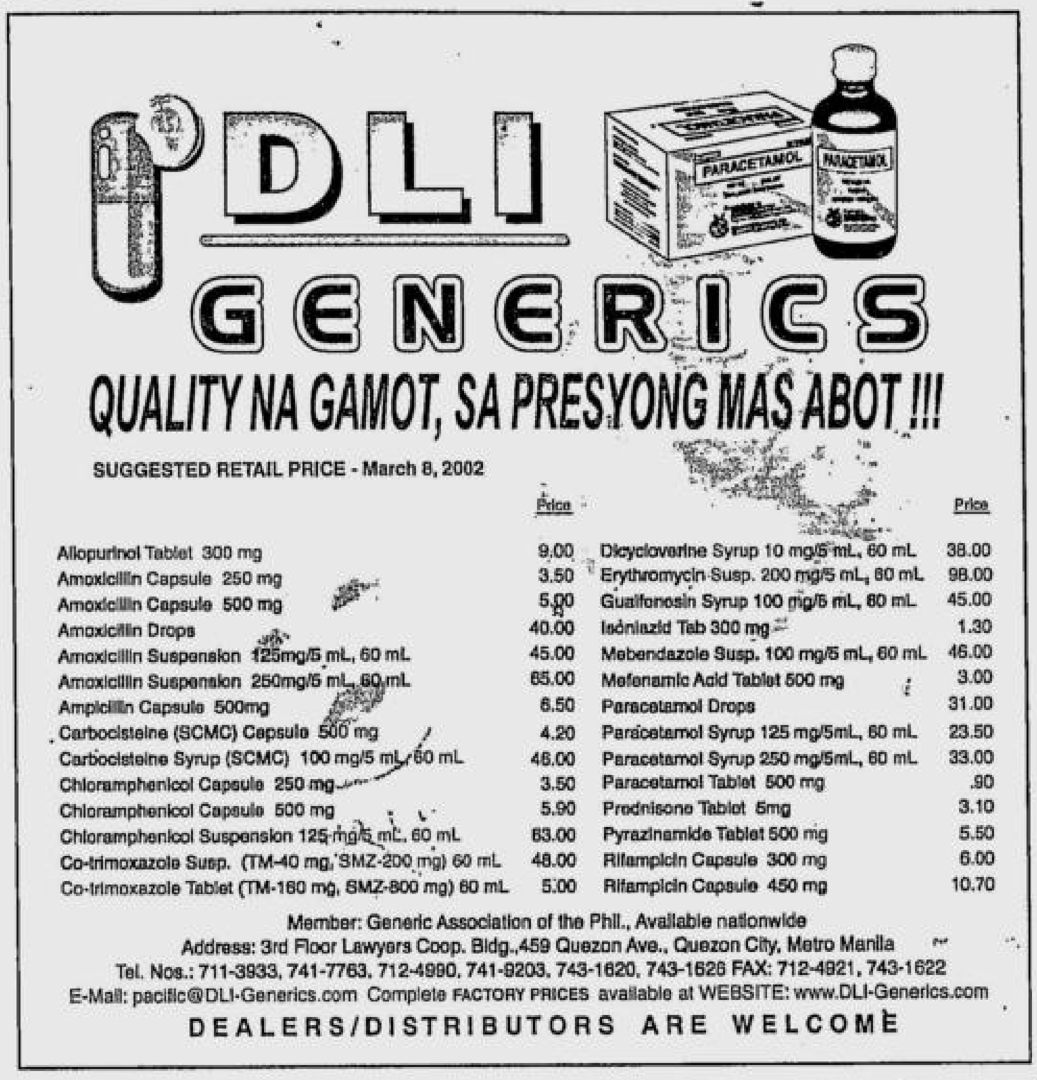
PRESTIGE GLUCOSE METER

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA
2nd Flr. (45) 636-3513

SM MANILA
5TH FLR. 484-1471

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL	SM FAIRVIEW	SM NORTH EDSA
5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36	Basement 418-75-40	Car Park Plaza 453 3326
	SM SOUTHMALL	ROBINSONS GALLERIA
CEBU 262 32 39	Basement 830-40-93	Basement 635-5061



DLI GENERICS

QUALITY NA GAMOT, SA PRESYONG MAS ABOT !!!

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE - March 8, 2002

	Price		Price
Allopurinol Tablet 300 mg	9.00	Dicycloverine Syrup 10 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	38.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.50	Erythromycin Susp. 200 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	98.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	5.00	Guaifenesin Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00
Amoxicillin Drops	40.00	Isoniazid Tab 300 mg	1.30
Amoxicillin Suspension 125mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Mebendazole Susp. 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 250mg/5 mL, 60 mL	65.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Ampicillin Capsule 500mg	6.50	Paracetamol Drops	31.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.20	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5mL, 60 mL	23.50
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00	Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5mL, 60 mL	33.00
Chloramphenicol Capsule 250 mg	3.50	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	.90
Chloramphenicol Capsule 500 mg	5.90	Prednisone Tablet 5mg	3.10
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Pyrazinamide Tablet 500 mg	5.50
Co-trimoxazole Susp. (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 mL	48.00	Rifampicin Capsule 300 mg	6.00
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-160 mg, SMZ-800 mg) 60 mL	5.00	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	10.70

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop. Bldg.,459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1620, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1622
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE: www.DLI-Generics.com

DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

NAGKAKAHAWA-HAWA NA ANG SWERTE
Balitang Tagumpay!!!
As seen on TV sa GMA Extra Extra Channel 7
Bawal magtipid!!!
[illegible]
Goodluck sa Negosyo, trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, Bingo, Atbp.
Pinakamagandang REGALO sa PASKO
LUCKY PYRAMID & Wishing Plant
(pampa-UNLAD NG BUHAY)
"Kapag mabilis Bumili, mabilis ring Manalo at Swertehin" Engr. Centeno

Born again nakabili noon ng LUCKY PYRAMID sa halagang P500 lang lumabas ang tip ni Engr.Margie Centeno hindi natayaan. Dapat nanalo ng P5.5 Million S-A-Y-A-N-G Patricia

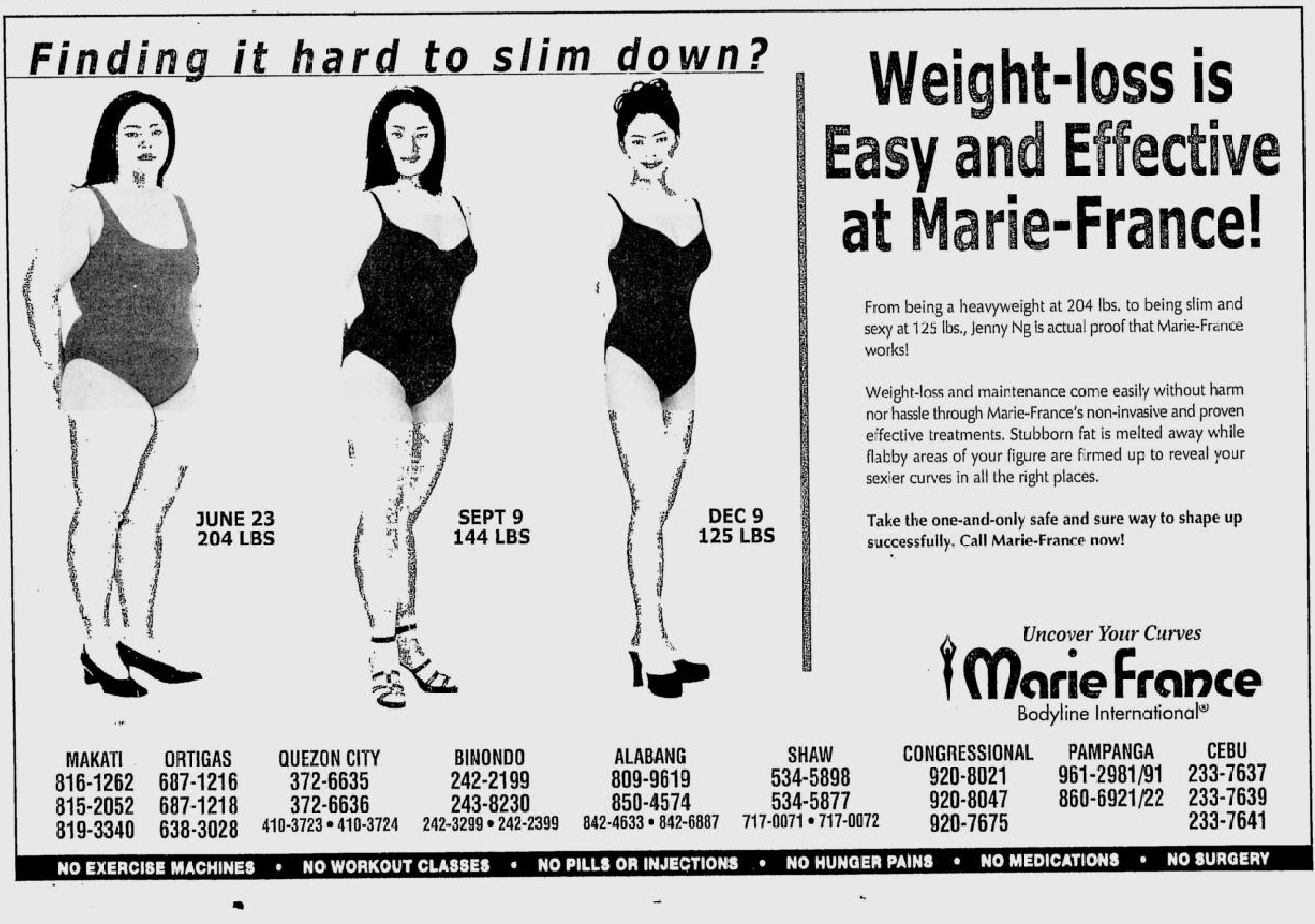
Visit us at: JC HERBAL CENTER
2865 Nat'l, Hi-way, Anos Los Banos, Laguna
(Across Mitz Buko Pie)
Call Tels: (049)8270767; Telefax(049)5366900
Cells:0917-9461917; 0919-3472861; 0916-8492550; 0920-2295914; 0920-2294830; 0920-2427602
Res. (049) 537-8105 Look for Engr.Margie Centeno.
For more info write to:
Engr.Margie Centeno, P.O. Box 34521 UP College 4031 Los Banos, Laguna or E-mail: lucky_pyramid@yahoo.com
Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO
Young Inventor of the Year 1990 • One of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993
Bayan Shell Gas Station Mitz Buko Pie TO CALAMBA Bet.61 & 62kms. TO UPLB Shell Gas Station Mitz Buko Pie LUCKY PYRAMID
OFFICE HOURS: 8AM-5PM Mon-Sat 8AM-3PM-Sunday
Cut & Bring this AD for your FREE LOTTO & BINGO (CIRCLE 8) Tips! Gupitin at ipit sa Check Book, Bank Book o Wallet

CASH AUTO SERVICE HOUSE
2K OVEN-BAKED URETHANE WASHOVER!
WE'LL MAKE YOUR BABY SHINE AGAIN! P 19,999
OTHER SERVICES RENDERED: COMPUTERIZED WHEEL ALIGNMENT • MECHANICAL • AIRCON • ELECTRICAL • WHEEL BALANCING
CASH AUTO SERVICE HOUSE
2263 J. Abad Santos, Tondo, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 252-1552 • 251-5811 • 253-4206

Here's a one-of-a-kind...
Wet & Dry VACUUM CLEANER & AIR PURIFIER in One!
Agua ECOSYSTEM CLEANER
A Special Water Filtration System separates air & water, thus, repelling dust & dust mites.
NO FILTER
Avail of our Very Low INTRODUCTORY PRICE!
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Nextel: 49888 • Globe: 0917-7896670 • Smart: 0918-5367577
QUEZON CITY BRANCHES 646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709 • 162 DEL MONTE AVE NR. COR ROOSEVELT AVE Tel 4101086 • 3724429

UNDER ONE ROOF!
ALNO German Kitchen Systems
GLOBE INTL DOORS & LOCKS
homescape FURNITURE
Homesuite FURNITURE
FRABEL TILES and WALL COVERINGS
Steinsberg Solingen
Roca BATHROOM FIXTURES
Italica Granite
ARISTOCRAT house of lamps
PARAGON lifestyle centre 162 EDSA
Now Open
G/F to 3/F paragon plaza
162 EDSA, cor. reliance st.
mandaluyong city
6365734 6365597
mon - sat. 10 am to 8:30 pm
paragonlifestyle@yahoo.com

SECURIT™
Eliminate The Risk
HOTEL & HOME SAFE
Imported, solid steel anti-theft safe, digital Keyboard control for easy and quick open/close. Ideal as second safe at home when you need to frequently open/close your safe.
SAFE & FILE CABINET COMBO
Imported, durable steel, 4 drawers with top drawer as safe, fire-proof with unique non-asbestos material.
CASH & CHECK DEPOSITORY SAFE
Imported, solid steel anti-theft safe, with pilfer-proof cash insertion mechanism, specially intended for retail establishments, restaurants and businesses which require frequent periodic deposits of cash. Safe from holdups since cashier cannot open it.
Distributed by:
SAFE SECURITY SYSTEMS, INC.
235 Cattleya Bldg. Salcedo St.,Legaspi Village,
Makati City Tel. Nos. 814-0708 / 818-1574



Finding it hard to slim down?
JUNE 23 204 LBS
SEPT 9 144 LBS
DEC 9 125 LBS

Weight-loss is Easy and Effective at Marie-France!

From being a heavyweight at 204 lbs. to being slim and sexy at 125 lbs., Jenny Ng is actual proof that Marie-France works!

Weight-loss and maintenance come easily without harm nor hassle through Marie-France's non-invasive and proven effective treatments. Stubborn fat is melted away while flabby areas of your figure are firmed up to reveal your sexier curves in all the right places.

Take the one-and-only safe and sure way to shape up successfully. Call Marie-France now!

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France Bodyline International

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
816-1262	687-1216	372-6635	242-2199	809-9619	534-5898	920-8021	961-2981/91	233-7637
815-2052	687-1218	372-6636	243-8230	850-4574	534-5877	920-8047	860-6921/22	233-7639
819-3340	638-3028	410-3723 • 410-3724	242-3299 • 242-2399	842-4633 • 842-6887	717-0071 • 717-0072	920-7675		233-7641

NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

Bicol govs turn against Roco, back Gloria

RAUL Roco's fellow Bicolanos rallied behind President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday after the former education secretary declared war on his former boss.

All six governors in the Bicol region, including two from the opposition, trooped to Malacañang yesterday to pledge their support to the President in the 2004 elections.

Among them is Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, a staunch ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada. He belongs to the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party.

When interviewed by reporters, Villafuerte was asked whom they would choose between Roco and the President in 2004.

"We will support GMA, all the governors without exception," he replied without hesitation.

He also took potshots at Roco, who hails from Naga City.

"As governor of Camarines Sur, I know him very well. I don't think he can be an effective executive. He may have been a good legislator."

"But that is beside the point with respect to our pledge to the President," he added.

Asked if he was also "abandoning" Estrada, the governor said he only wanted the former president to get his chance to appear at the impeachment trial.

"But of course events overcame this. But he had his day in court," he said.

Roco resigned last month as education secretary after Malacañang endorsed a graft complaint against him to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Among the charges against him was the printing of DepEd posters with Roco's picture using government funds. On Tuesday, Roco produced posters of Ms Macapagal.

The other governors present were Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee who is also with LDP, Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara, Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus Typoco Jr., Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr. , who all belong to the administration Lakas party, and Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho of Reporma party.

Villafuerte said the President, during her last visit to Bicol, has committed to undertake a "more aggressive and meaningful (anti-poverty) program" for the region.

Bicol is the second poorest region, next only to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, he said.

Villafuerte admitted that it took them a long time to support Ms Macapagal.

"We have come to realize that we cannot move forward unless we all agree that we should support her," he said.

Ms Macapagal made sure that Palace reporters would interview the governors.

The reporters were having a luncheon with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye outside Malacañang when they were told that the President would be issuing a statement.

It turned out only the governors would face them.

Meanwhile, Malacañang fired back at Roco, who started the "poster war" the other day.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Joey Rufino said Roco was "twisting the truth" when he accused the President of committing graft by accepting private funds to print thousands of posters.

Rufino admitted that "friends and supporters" sponsored the posters.

He claimed the President could not be charged with graft since she did not know about the posters until after they were distributed.

"How can that be illegal when the President did not receive those posters? Her supporters distributed them.

"I know the law. It's when you use government money and you put your own face in the poster, that's when it's considered illegal," he went on.

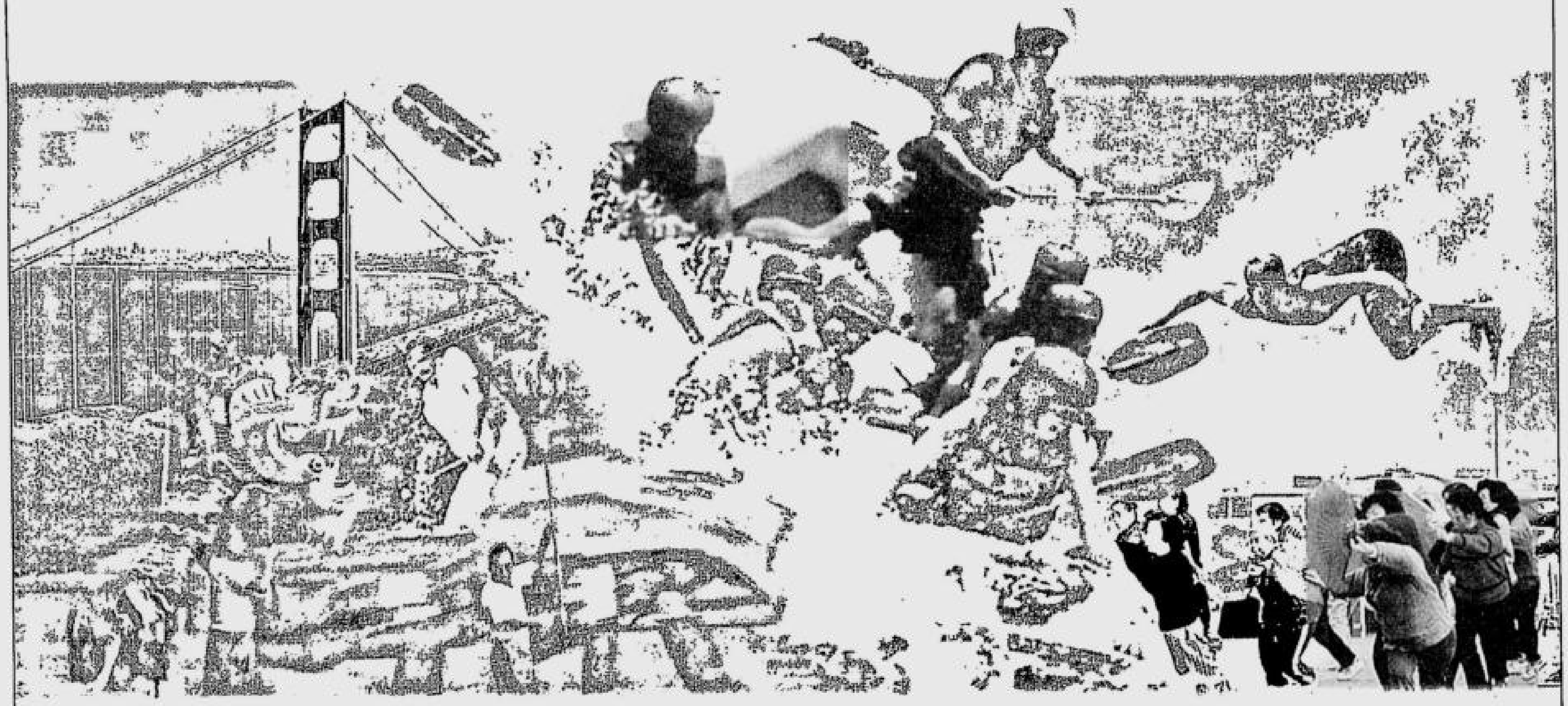
Rufino dismissed as "foolish" Roco's challenge to name the sponsors of the posters.

"What's there to make public? I myself could claim that I gave it all. Who will doubt it? My income tax return could justify it. It's a foolish assumption," he said.

SURPLUS AIRCON MADE IN JAPAN
SKYAIR (w/ remote) 5 TONS P30,000
CEILING (w/ remote) 5 TONS P35,000
PACKAGE TYPE AIRCON
• 3 TONS - P25,000
• 5 TONS - P35,000
• 71/2 TONS - P50,000
• 10 TONS - P70,000
• 15 TONS - P90,000
• 20 TONS - P130,000
220V 3PHASE
PACKAGE TYPE AIRCON 3 TONS, 5 TONS, 7.5 TONS, 10 TONS, 15 TONS & 20 TONS
CHILLER
STAND TYPE P2,600
UPRIGHT FREEZER
SURPLUS "JAPAN" TELEVISION
14" to 29"
700 plus units
wholesale buyers
SPLIT TYPE
WHOLESALERS & RETAILERS WELCOME!
OYAMA COOLTRONICS CORPORATION
• 271 EDSA, Caloocan City Tels.: 367-6521 • 367-6522
• BBB Commercial Complex, 202 A & B McArthur Highway, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City Tels.: 293-1432 • 443-6032
AVAILABLE: • SALES • SERVICES • REPAIRS • WARRANTY • INSTALLATIONS

www.officeclub.com.ph
Complete line of office supplies, office furniture & equipment
MANILA
344 Nueva St. Binondo, Manila
Call Center : 244 - 7211 to 15
Fax No. : 243 - 1875
E-Mail :sales@officeclub.com.ph
MAKATI
814 Pasay Road , Makati City
Call Center : 752 - 8378 to 81
Fax No. : 752 - 8376
E-Mail : oc_makati@yahoo.com
CLERICAL P 1,585.00
CLERICAL DESK P 1,895.00
CONFERENCE TABLE P 3,985.00
BOND 16 P 80.00
SANYO FAX MACHINE P 5,695.00
ELECTRONIC CHECK WRITER P 5,695.00
HP C4096A LASER TONER P 4,500.00
HP 51629 A P 1,320.00
MOBILE CABINET P 2,195.00
STEEL STORAGE CABINET P 4,995.00

Philippine Airlines
Passes to Pleasure
Get a chance to win free roundtrip tickets for 2 to Bangkok, Saigon, Shanghai, Sydney or to the U.S.A.



Simply fly PAL to any Philippine domestic destination or to Hongkong or Singapore and you're in the draw.

Who can join
All Philippine Airlines (PAL) passengers who fly one-way, round-trip, or multi-legged tickets with a Manila to Hong Kong or Manila to Singapore sector or Manila to any Philippine domestic destination, between September 12 to November 29, 2002 are qualified to join the promo.

Upon check-in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial Terminal 2, a qualified ticketholder/passenger will be issued a raffle entry coupon. The passenger will drop the coupon into any of the designated drop boxes located at the pre-departure area of NAIA Centennial Terminal 2.

Get a chance to win in any or all three categories: Manila to Hongkong, Manila to Singapore and Manila to any Philippine domestic destination.

The following are the draw dates and respective prizes at stake for each draw:
30 September 2002 - Economy Class round-trip tickets for two (2) to Manila/Saigon
16 October 2002 - Economy Class round-trip tickets for two (2) to Manila/Shanghai
30 October 2002 - Swingaround Bangkok holiday package for two (2).
16 November 2002 - Swingaround Sydney holiday package for two (2).
30 November 2002 - Grand draw
Swingaround San Francisco holiday package for two (2).

See poster for more details.
Promo period: September 12 to November 29, 2002
Philippine Airlines
It's about experience
www.philippineairlines.com
Please call PAL Reservations at (02) 855-8888, visit the nearest PAL Ticket Office or call your Travel Agent.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3498, Series of 2002

Agri sounds alarm: El Niño is coming

THE WARNING bells are now being sounded on the El Niño phenomenon.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday appealed to the public to start conserving water in view of the threat posed by the El Nino phenomenon, which was expected to be felt in the country starting next month.

Montemayor's appeal came as the National Irrigation Administration reported that of the three major dams servicing farming activities, two—the Pantabangan and Magat dams—are already below their rule curves or normal levels.

The NIA said Pantabangan dam's current level is 187.97 meters as against its rule curve of 207.12 meters, while Magat dam's level is at 178.90, way below its normal level of 182.25 meters.

Only the Angat dam, which also supplies part of Metro Manila's domestic and commercial water needs, has a level above normal: 206.59 meters against its rule curve of 189.36 meters.

Montemayor said so far, the NIA is also completing at least 172 irrigation projects that will cover 28,656 hectares of farmlands. Some P267 million has been released to the NIA for its irrigation projects related to El Niño.

Jesus Emmanuel Paras, NIA administrator, said at least 21,000 has. of the Angat's dam service area of 26,000 has. are programmed to be planted this cropping season.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 5, 2002
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 3:18-23
Gospel: Lk 5:1-11

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary

The very first disciples whom Jesus called according to Luke were fishermen, who knew their trade well. They had fished in vain during the previous night. But trusting in Jesus' word who would fish them, Peter and his companions cast their nets and to their great surprise made a very big catch. Awe—the same response which people had in the experience of teaching and healing—overtook the first disciples. Receiving the mission of becoming fishers of people, they left everything and followed him. Those of us who are engaged in pastoral care in one form or another, do we do it relying on God's Word or mainly on our professional expertise?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

'Dirty money' monitors eye 3 bank accounts

By Raul C. Dancel

GOVERNMENT regulators are investigating at least three accounts that they suspect are being used by a syndicate abroad to launder dirty money.

Persons familiar with the matter said the Anti-Money Laundering Council had begun looking into at least three accounts held by a certain Jutta Krursel in the Ermita branch of Robinsons Savings Bank.

The Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is also set to look into the matter this week, they said.

Krursel is supposedly holding the three accounts in behalf of a religious organization, the Lipon ng mga Lingkod ng Panginoon Inc.

Lingkod has filed a complaint with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas against Robinsons Bank, a thrift bank owned by retail tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., for allegedly refusing to service its withdrawals.

The group claimed that it still had about P34 million with the savings bank since March 2002. The money, it said, came from contributions by donors that included Drake Publishing Inc. owner Annabeth Germane to fund programs for street children in the Philippines.

In a statement sent to news organizations, however, Robinsons Bank president and chief executive Reynold Gerongay said Lingkod "is not a client."

"The bank does not have any dealings whatsoever with the said religious organization," Gerongay stressed.

'Red flag'

Reacting to Lingkod's complaint, Gerongay said Robinsons Bank "had, in fact, sought the help of regulators, including the BSP, to the matter heard, so that Robinsons Bank can adequately and lawfully defend itself in the proper venue."

A ranking government regulator, who declined to be named, told the INQUIRER that the AMLC had placed a red flag on the disputed accounts, as its supposed agent, Krursel, had been presenting spurious identification papers.

Krursel reportedly presented a fake passport in her transactions with Robinsons Bank. The sources said the "real" Krursel is a 30-year-old German, not the 60-year-old woman who had been trying to withdraw the money.

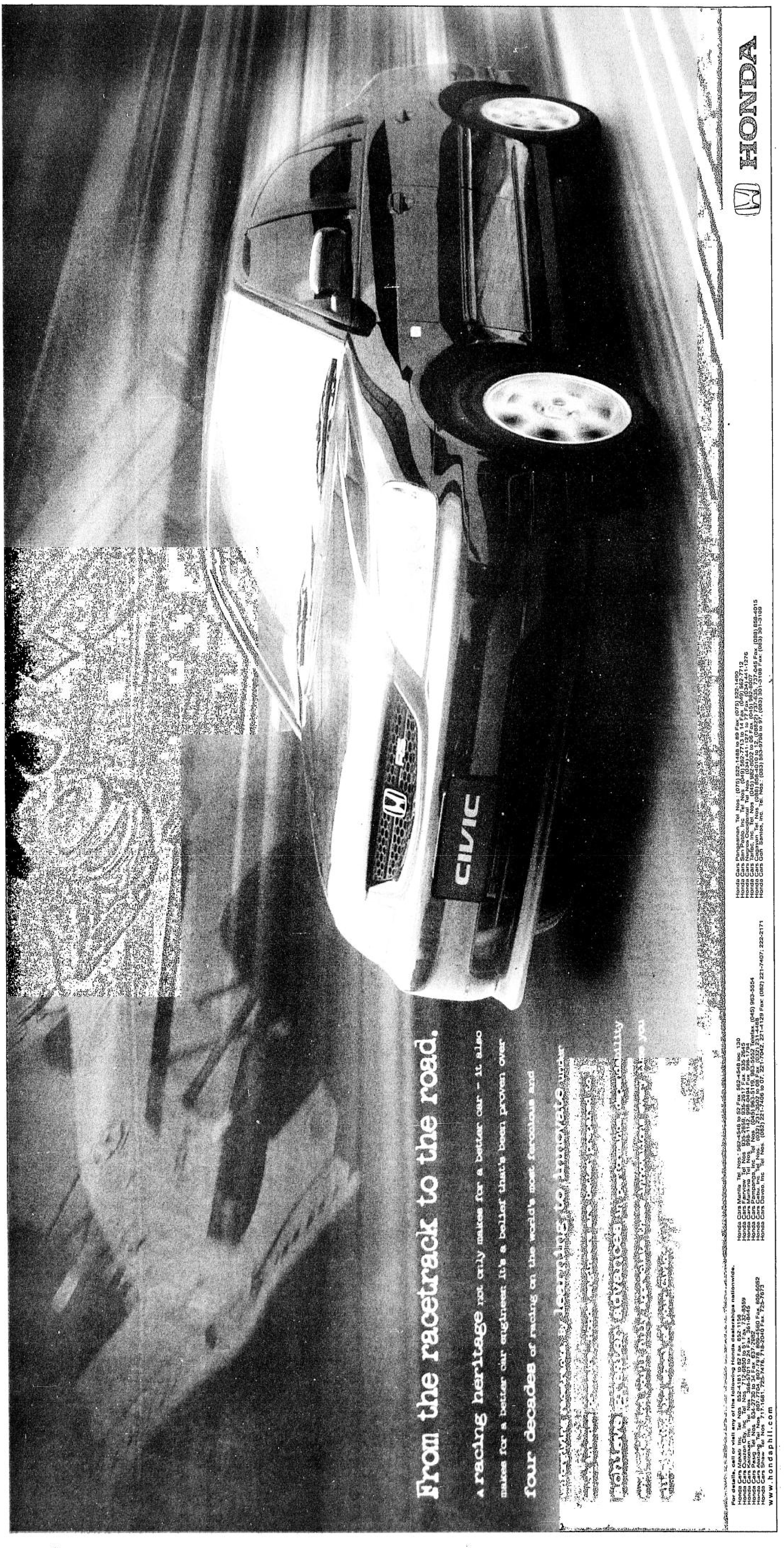
According to government probers, the passport has been tampered with and the year of birth changed from "1972" to "1942."

Bernarte, 74

ILUMINADA Obaob Bernarte of Leyte died on Sept. 1, at the age of 74. Her body lies at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue in Quezon City.

She is survived by husband Pablo, sons Napoleon (Nap), Achilles (Archie) and Alexis (Alex), daughter May, daughter-in-law Tina and grandchildren Catherine, Dylan and Matthew.

Interment will be on Sept. 6, in Macabebe, Pampanga.


From the racetrack to the road.
A racing heritage not only makes for a better car - it also makes for a better car engineer. It's a belief that's been proven over four decades of racing on the world's most ferocious and
CIVIC
HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 269
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
Assistant News Editor **Nilo B. Paurom**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Gingerly

EDITORIAL

WHY is President Macapagal-Arroyo's "strong republic" comporting itself so gingerly vis-à-vis the expulsion of Filipinos from Sabah? Why isn't what she herself has called the "Gloria temper" rearing its smart head, baring teeth and dropping stinging words of displeasure? The bottom line ought to be clear to the attentive observer: It cannot provide the tens of thousands suddenly descending on these shores the fundamental means to keep body and soul together, and it is hoping that Malaysia will take them back.

Depressing, but even the language of the nine-member team sent ostensibly to look into the conditions of the detained Filipinos hews to the conciliatory stance, never mind the mind-blowing misery that attended their internment in Sabah and subsequent passage to Tawi-tawi. "We will appeal to the authorities there to be lenient..." said Nur Jaafar, team leader and the President's adviser on Muslim concerns. "If possible," the team will negotiate for time to process the travel documents of those who intend to return to Sabah. "If necessary," it will visit the detention camp in Tuwao (where, according to reports, Malaysian police are making sex slaves of Filipino women prisoners). You'd think the Philippines had the patent on the indelicate ceremony of bowing and scraping.

Then again, what's this administration to do about its constituents who are driven to grip the knife's edge? With no livelihood to provide, there seems nothing other than for the President to receive their remains in hermetically sealed boxes, or, in this case, meet them with a handshake and an appropriate face as they stagger off a Navy ship in Bongao, clutching wailing babies and the detritus of their lives.

Complaining about this state of affairs may seem like flogging a dead horse. But the fate of the teeming horde shipped from Malaysia or kept in squalid detention preparatory to expulsion again calls attention to the export of labor that has been this country's official policy since the regime of the late unlamented Ferdinand Marcos. The reports shout the fact, and the photographs even more so—a sea of humanity gathered helter-skelter, making up what the Malaysian government calls illegal workers and their families, the same workers that contributed brawn and industry to assist the growth and development of a country not their own.

The President is correct in calling it a "great tragedy," although she could have made the statement in a context apart from the only significant one: that Filipinos have truly been shorn of dignity, and that they have to venture overseas and there endure the worst just to get by.

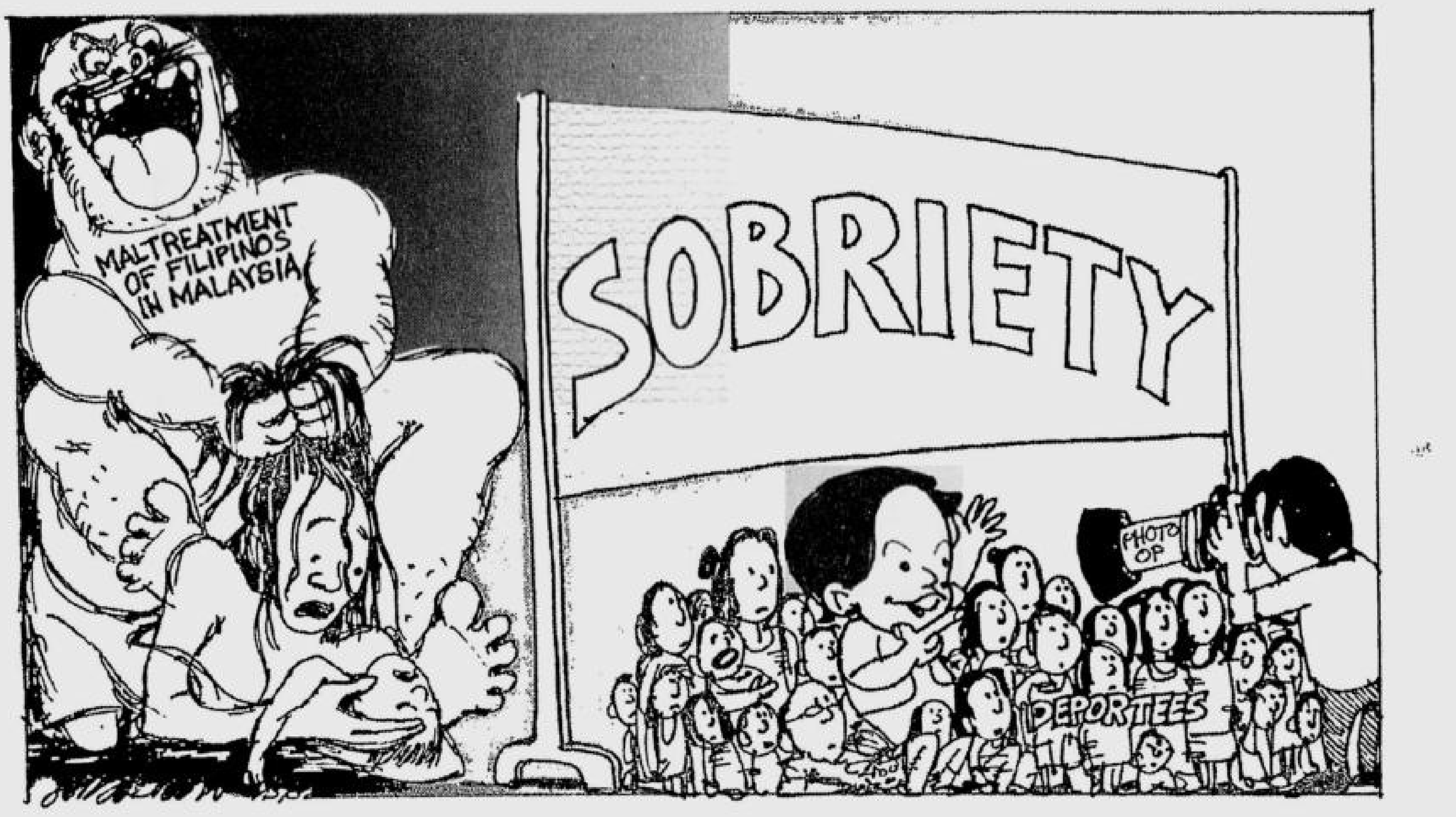
Willfully

OF COURSE, the scarcity of jobs is not exactly a monopoly of this country. Like his Philippine counterpart, Mexican President Vicente Fox-whose election two years ago ended a decades-old autocracy—promised to create a million jobs. And like her, he is hard put to deliver. But the Philippine government has willfully made an industry of the export of its people-whether legal or illegal—so that distressing numbers now roam the world as peons, servants or "entertainers," and, as in the case of those who fall into the cracks of the nether world, prostitutes. (Even lawmakers and military officials are alleged to be into the illegal recruitment of women.)

Researchers would point out that the global labor market is, like Mount Everest, there for the climbing. They would, in the course of raising a supposed index of Philippine development, cite the current demand for nurses and caregivers that Filipinos can meet and are indeed skillfully meeting, the demand for laborers and engineers in Middle East fields having, they would note, dried up.

Yet from a different, more important, perspective, the large-scale exodus of Filipinos from the motherland for the purpose of taking due advantage of a burgeoning market has entailed tremendous social costs. This is what has generally ravaged small-town Philippines, and it requires constant emphasis—of women rearing children or grandparents in foreign households while their own loved ones make do beyond their embrace, of men leaving hearth and home and fending off loneliness and *buryong*, of broken families and sons and daughters gone astray.

It's an old sad song about this country not providing for its own, and the great tragedy is that it's still being sung.


MALTREATMENT OF FILIPINOS IN MALAYSIA
SOBRIETY
PHOTO OP
DEPORTEES

Vehicles parked on sidewalks next to go

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IT is surprising how supposedly educated people still equate the campaign to rid the sidewalks of all obstructions, including sidewalk vendors, as a war between the rich and the poor. Why are the vendors being driven away while the cars of the rich continue to occupy the sidewalks? asked one letter writer. If the vendors cannot sell their wares on the sidewalks, how can they earn a living? asked another.

The trouble with these bleeding hearts is that they think with their hearts, not with their brains. Nobody is stopping the vendors from selling their wares to earn a livelihood, but they should do it where it is allowed—in the markets. The sidewalks are for pedestrians and the streets are for vehicles, not for vendors. The markets are for the vendors.

And the sidewalks will be cleared of parked vehicles, too. *Una-una lang*, said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando who was the guest at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila. Vehicles parked on the sidewalks will be towed away, he said. Chains and ropes reserving parking slots for customers of stores and eateries will be cut and the security guards guarding them will be arrested. Other obstructions will be demolished. The sidewalks belong to the public. They are beyond the commerce of man. City hall permits do not change that.

Commercial establishments without parking lots at the back are violating the law, Fernando said. The Building Code requires that for every so many square meters of store space, there should be a proportionate number of parking slots elsewhere. Many establishments don't have that. Instead they use the sidewalks as their private parking lots. That's wrong.

Even vehicles inside subdivision villages, parked out in the streets overnight and not in garages, violate the law. Those who are inconvenienced by them should complain to the barangay, whose officials should tell the owners to take their vehicles off the streets. If they still leave their vehicles outside, then they can be towed away. Streets, even in private subdivisions, belong to the public. Nobody can appropriate them for himself, Fernando said.

Happily, though the sidewalk vendors and the bleeding hearts are still noisy, the more responsible citizens are seeing the light: that the sidewalk campaign is for everybody's good. Fernando reported that a group of sidewalk vendors in Pasay who were able to get a restraining order from the court years ago has voluntarily left the sidewalks. And Andok, of *lechon manok* fame, has voluntarily dismantled its stall in Pasay. How soon will other Andok sidewalk stalls follow suit?

Vendors complain that rentals inside public markets are beyond their reach. This is not true, Fernando said, adding that in front of the vendors themselves, the administrator of the Balintawak public market said that rentals inside range only from P29 to P50 per day—no goodwill money, no advance rentals, no deposits. That's less than what they are paying to corrupt policemen and barangay officials. But the market is empty while the sidewalks and streets are full of vendors, impeding the flow of traffic.

Fernando explained that vendors want to sell on the sidewalks and streets because the most expensive stalls are those near the streets. There they are out in the streets and it's free.

And customers buy from sidewalk vendors not only because they're too lazy to walk the few steps into the market but also because they think the goods of the sidewalk vendors are cheaper. What they don't realize is that even if they are priced a few centavos cheaper, they are cheated out of one *guhit*, Fernando revealed.

What about the kerosene-sprinkling technique? Although the law allows the confiscation of illegal peddled goods, Fernando said, they don't do that to avoid violence and to avoid accusations that they are getting the goods for themselves.

By sprinkling kerosene on the goods, he said, the vendors won't be able to sell them. When they run out of capital, they'll realize that it is wiser to obey the law and go inside the market.

Why not just convince the Bombay "five-six" loan sharks not to give them any credit? No need, Fernando answered. When the vendors are unable to pay, the Bombay will be forced to stop giving loans.

If the vendors and their patrons think that pressure will make Fernando stop, I have bad news for them. The campaign will not stop at Edsa. It will expand to the whole Metro Manila and, ultimately, to the whole country. When this is finished, Fernando said, everybody, including those who were adversely affected, will be happy that we have law and order at last.

What the vendors and drivers who block traffic don't realize is that they're committing economic sabotage, Fernando said. Imagine the man-hours lost, and the billions of pesos in business opportunities lost because of traffic delayed by congested streets and sidewalks.

The sooner the lawbreakers accept that this campaign is for the good of everybody and there is no getting around it, the better it would be for them, Fernando concluded. They will also benefit in the end.

The vendors and the bleeding hearts may be noisier but the silent majority, the law-abiding citizens, are firmly behind Fernando's crusade.

Backlash

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THIS is by far the worst case of it, the turning of detained women into sex slaves by Malaysian cops. The women's groups have every right to be furious. And demand that President Macapagal-Arroyo act more resolutely to press Mahathir Mohammad for redress. At least with the same resoluteness she has shown in prosecuting America's "war against terror" in these parts. You can be brave when facing faceless bogeymen but turn wimp when facing a real one? You can be unyielding when facing a faceless terror but turn tolerant when facing a real one?

You go by any definition of terrorism, and this one easily qualifies for it. What can be more terrifying than being locked up in a pen and taken out only to perform sexual services on pain of death or torture? What can be more patent an act of terror than wreaking this atrocity on thousands of defenseless people?

There and then, you see the folly of our having stood with the United States against the rest of the world and voted against the creation of an international criminal court to try cases like this. The proposed ICC, unlike the International Court of Justice in the Hague, is meant to exercise jurisdiction over individuals and not just over states. The United States has always opposed this on the ground that as a superpower, its conduct and that of its nationals, may not be judged by others. It has offered as alternative a court that receives its cases from the UN Security Council—where a single American vote can veto any action. If we had supported the creation of such a court, we could even now be proposing to elevate this case to it.

But even without this, why should we take this sitting down? This is by no means the first time Malaysia has treated our nationals shabbily, though this is the worst of them as I've said. I recall that many years ago, the Malaysian police rounded off about a thousand Filipinos in a busy quarter of Kuala Lampur in a dawn raid, rousing them off from sleep and carting them off to a local station. Where they were able to show papers, they were allowed to go home. Where they were not, they were detained and caned before being deported. A horrible way to ferret out illegals, presuming as it does that Filipinos are naturally guilty until proven innocent. The tactic was not unlike the one the Gestapo used to ferret out Jews in Poland. Or the one Israeli commandos are using to ferret out terrorists in Palestine.

This was during Fidel Ramos' time. I said then that we ought to protest it unrelentingly as it stood to set a precedent. We did so lamely then, just as we are doing so lamely now. We took Malaysia's blithe explanations for it, and reminded ourselves that we have people working there, we can't afford to antagonize Mahathir by looking too closely on how they are treated. You agree that beggars cannot be choosers and you will always be treated like a beggar. Or a sex slave.

The only call for sobriety that needs to be made here is one that should be addressed not to the citizens but to the government. The only call for sobriety that needs to be made here is not for the citizens to stop being incensed but for their government to stop pursuing a reckless foreign policy.

I go back in this respect to a point I made last Monday. If there is any lesson to be learned here, it is that our first and overriding priority in foreign policy is the care and protection of our overseas workers, legal or illegal. There is nothing more important. It is a matter of national survival. We have 3 million documented OFWs spread throughout the world who are keeping this country afloat—they brought in $41.6 billion over the last decade alone, the only thing that kept the peso from turning into Mickey Mouse money. Making sure that they remain welcome in their host countries and are treated as best as they can be treated should be our No. 1 concern.

The same goes for the illegals, or undocumented workers, who have probably grown to humongous proportions—nobody knows for sure how much—over the years. You have 19 percent of the population finding this country hopeless and wanting to leave it, and you will have an even bigger number of them in years to come.

That should be our life-and-death preoccupation, not the "war against terror." The only terror we should feel threatened with is the one that hangs over the heads of our OFWs, especially the ones without papers. The only way to combat that is to strengthen our relations with the countries that are employing a substantial portion of our work force. Not to grovel before them but to engage them in relations of cooperation and respect. After all, our countries derive mutual benefit from the OFWs. We have strong relations with them, easier to protest acts of atrocity such as these. Maybe even prevent acts of atrocity such as these.

Certainly, the way to combat this is not to piss off these countries, which our aggressive posture of being America's leprous arm in Asia is doing. If the Sabah incident demonstrates anything, it is the complete vulnerability of our nationals abroad and our powerlessness to do anything when they are treated mercilessly, or as in this case, terrorized absolutely. We earn their ill-will, or worse their active enmity, which the anti-Muslim bias of the "war against terror" is bound to provoke, and our nationals in those countries reap the whirlwind. It's a recipe for national suicide.

By all means let us rage bitterly against the monumental injustice that has been done to our women in Sabah. The government has no right to ask us not to. But let us compel the government too to take the steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Longest day at the House

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia was obviously encouraged by the overwhelming vote of confidence he got during the brief attempt by a tiny group of House members to unseat him to push the chamber to the longest working session in its history. The coup attempt came the other Wednesday when opposition Rep. Didagen Dilangalen moved to have all posts declared vacant from the speakership to the committee chairmanships. He moved for a division of the House, but when the votes of 133 House members present were counted, only six opposition members voted against JDV. This prompted Rep. Rodolfo Albano to observe that the 20-member opposition couldn't even be solid in its coup attempt.

* * *

Last Monday afternoon the Speaker marshaled the chamber to finish two administration priority bills in time for the recess of Congress this weekend. Monday turned out to be the longest working day in its history—it adjourned at 6:09 a.m., beating last year's budget marathon which adjourned at 4 a.m., and the deliberations on the anti-money laundering bill which lasted up to 5 a.m. Passed were the bills privatizing and modernizing the National Transmission Commission (Transco) and creating the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Hopefully the Senate will finish its counterpart bills this week or late this month when session resumes.

* * *

In a brief interview afterwards, De Venecia proudly pointed out that the Transco bill translates into savings of P26 billion a year, which could be used to reduce the PPA charge for the next 20 years by 60 centavos, or applied half to the consolidated budget deficit and half to the PPA, effectively reducing the PPA by 30 centavos. Either way consumers should be happy.

In Monday's session Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Emilio Espinosa Jr. presided, allowing JDV and Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II to push on the floor. Helping them were the principal sponsors, Representatives Teddy Boy Locsin, Miguel Zubiri, Cirilo Badelles, Gilbert Teodoro and Florencio Abad.

* * *

At last Tuesday's joint hearing led by the Senate Blue Ribbon committee on the Piatco case, Sen. Loren Legarda's query gave an indication of how the group of Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan Climaco, which was assigned to review the Piatco BOT contract with the government, operates. Legarda noted that during the CA hearings on the confirmation of then Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, Neda Director General Dante Canlas declared the Piatco contract to be "aboveboard" and had only good words about it. Now, noted Legarda, the President says it's "onerous." Which is the official position? Climaco replied that it's the President's and that she (Climaco) did not know Canlas' position.

* * *

Climaco's admission that she did not bother to look into Canlas' stand is intriguing. She must have known that Neda's investment coordinating committee reviewed and approved both the original concession agreement of 1997 and the amendment and restated concession agreement (Arca) inked during President Estrada's time. That Climaco failed to get Canlas' opinion seems to indicate that she went into her job with her mind set on looking only for loopholes so as to force the partners to agree to a government takeover.

* * *

At the hearing, Sen. Edgardo Angara castigated the government for its "ambiguous, shifting stand" on the Piatco deal. Noting how it vigorously defended the contract during Alvarez's botched confirmation and how it now considers it onerous and justifies a take of Piatco's operation, he stressed that this has confused people and led to speculation about an "unseen hand."

* * *

Climaco pins her controversial moves on her credentials and reputation, but Sen. John Osmeña is not impressed. At Tuesday's hearing, he appeared to be the lone unbeliever in the Senate group that seemed captivated by Climaco's alternately tearful and "imperious" style, to borrow a description from Piatco lawyer Eduardo de los Angeles. In reply to Osmeña's query, she disclosed that among the BOT contracts she is reviewing are the Metro Rail Transit and the Metropolitan Water Works in Cebu. Osmeña then raised the case of her alleged intervention on behalf of Ayala Corp. in the water project for Metro Cebu.

* * *

As Osmeña told the media later, it seems that Ayala discovered a large water deposit in the northern Cebu town of Carmen, whose perennial problem was inadequate water. Ayala applied to the National Water Resource Board for rights to extract 50,000 cu. m. of water from Carmen daily and pipe it to Cebu City. It offered to buy the water for 50 centavos per cu. m., but Osmeña said talk was that it would be selling it at P17 per cu. m., thus making P800,000 a day. The people of Carmen objected to the sale and resorted to people power.

But to Osmeña, what made it worse was that the barangay captains and councilors of Carmen were summoned to Malacañang by Climaco and "frightened" by her into accepting the Ayala offer. He alleged that she used her Palace office to promote a private business. At the Senate hearing, Climaco refused to answer questions about this issue as the hearing was about Piatco, but she offered to discuss it with Osmeña later. He plans to investigate her "strategic activities" in his own committee hearing.

* * *

Calling all UPSCAns. The much-loved former UPSCA chaplain Fr. Joseph O'Brien, S.J. passed away last Sept. 3. His remains lie in state at Loyola House, Ateneo University campus, where a concelebrated Mass will be said this evening at 8 p.m. His funeral will be tomorrow, Sept. 6, at the Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery in Novaliches, immediately after the 8 a.m. funeral Mass at Loyola House.

'Life in abundance'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SR. VIRGINIA Fabella, who spent the first decade of her life as a religious teaching in Maryknoll (now Miriam) College before spending decades in mission posts around the world, celebrated her golden jubilee as a Maryknoll Sister last Sept. 1.

Sister Virginia was joined by both her personal and Maryknoll family, as well as by former students, colleagues and friends, at a Thanksgiving Mass and dinner at the Kalayaan Hall of Club Filipino.

During the Mass, celebrated by Bishop Julio X. Labayen, Sister Virginia shared her reflections on the meaning of "mission" and its life-giving aspects. Since this is also Homecoming Week for Miriam, I'd like to share with readers excerpts from Sister Virginia's reflections below:

* * *

AFTER ALL these years in Maryknoll, I'd like to share a few reflections about what my Maryknoll vocation means to me. A Maryknoll vocation is essentially a missionary vocation. For Maryknoll Sisters, the missionary vocation is combined with religious life. Actually the missionary vocation pertains to all of us. Vatican II, made clear that the whole Church is missionary by nature, so all of us are called to be missionaries in one way or other; that is, to continue the mission of Jesus.

Sometime ago, each Maryknoll Sister was asked to name in one word her personal core value as a Maryknoll Sister. I chose the word "life" as central to my Maryknoll vocation. I chose "life" above "love," "community" and even "holiness." To me, "life" encompasses all three and more. I speak of life in all its dimensions, the "abundant life" or "life to the full" that Jesus came to bring. To me "life" is the end-all and be-all of our universal call to mission. As Jesus says in St. John's Gospel: "I have come that they may have life and have it in abundance." (John 10:10) That to me was Jesus' mission statement, his statement of purpose. So I am happy that by coincidence this Sunday's Gospel also speaks about the centrality of life.

* * *

BY "life in abundance," Jesus wasn't referring to eternal life alone. His words and actions, curing the sick and feeding people, showed he was also concerned about people's present lives, or to use Mother Mary Joseph's words in the first reading, "life just as it is." So the abundant life is not just life after death. The Pro-Life movement stresses life before birth, but what about life AFTER birth and BEFORE death? Some people think that during our time on earth, to be a good Catholic, we must concentrate on the spiritual life, that is, prayer life and the sacraments. But the spiritual life is but one aspect of our total life. Here in the Philippines we see so many of our people whose lives have been diminished, who live below the poverty line, without the basics in life: clean water, proper food, habitation, health care, education and so forth.

Through our different ministries, the Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines aspire to enhance the life of our people in a more holistic way that includes the promotion of justice. For us, work for justice is a vital aspect of that "life in abundance" and an important component of our faith. My present involvement in theological education and ecumenical dialogue attempts to make the total life of Christians more profound and meaningful not only for ourselves but also for all the people we serve. Some Sisters are engaged in theological, scriptural and spiritual formation, while others are, for instance, helping paraplegics live creative and productive lives; or doing advocacy work with peasants, or providing marginalized sectors with alternative and more accessible health care; or developing the ecological awareness of our people to take proper care of our planet Earth. The promotion of eco-justice must likewise respect and care for everything that sustains it.

Sometimes we can be inconsistent in the way we view life. Some of us will insist we are pro-life and yet we favor capital punishment or total war which involves the loss or displacement of innocent lives or we are not sufficiently concerned about the wanton destruction or wasteful use of our natural resources.

To end my reflection, I would like to ask you to join me in thanking God for my Maryknoll vocation and the grace to sustain and nourish it during these past 50 years. I pray for all of us that our word and deed may truly be life-giving for ourselves as well as for all those whose lives will touch ours so that we can all be closer to that "life in abundance" which is Jesus' wish for all of us.

* * *

ALUMNI of Maryknoll and Miriam are invited to take part in the 76th Alumni Homecoming this Saturday, Sept. 7 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and will be followed by a Holy Mass at 10 a.m. An entrance/registration fee of P100 will be charged.

This year's homecoming will feature a cooking demo by Dorothy Ferraria, medical lectures by Doctors Florencio Lucero and Suey Revilla-Manalastas, a food street, book fair (featuring works of alumni), art exhibit, softball and archery events and kiddie activities. There will also be an exhibit on the latest batch of Amazing Alumni Achievers. The highlight of the day's events will be a program in the afternoon hosted by the Silver Jubilarian Class of HS 1977, joined by High School and College Jubilarian Classes of '52, '57, '62, '67 and '72.

Take note, Rotten Apples, a.k.a. MCHS Class of '72, we're expected to do a reprise of our Silver Jubilee number on Saturday. I'm telling you now I can't make it, but break a leg, girls!

Dr. Ruth Pfau's candle

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE reading the book "To Light a Candle: Reminiscences and Reflections of Dr. Ruth Pfau" (edited by Muhammad Salim), a surge of memory gently swept me away. I was brought back to a time when my young mind and heart were inexorably drawn to something, some path, some place in a soul-shaking sort of way. Was it worth living for and dying for? Its power was stronger than my teenage hormones.

I devoured the books written by Dr. Tom Dooley, the doctor who worked among the refugees in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and died so young, and on the lives of David Livingstone and Nobel laureate Albert Schweitzer in Africa. And there was Kathryn Hulme's bestselling "The Nun's Story" that became a notable film with Audrey Hepburn as a nun-nurse in the Belgian Congo.

Yes, how the things we read, imagine and desire get us so far, both outward and inward, into the amazing wilderness of our life. We hear the owl call our name, we leave all.

Dr. Ruth Pfau, 73, a medical doctor and Catholic nun of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, is the 2002 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Public Service. Pfau, a German who has been working among leprosy patients in Pakistan for more than 40 years, is being honored "for her lifelong dedication to eradicate leprosy and its stigma in Pakistan..."

I sat down with Pfau and wrote a feature on her last week, but space did not allow for comments on her book. It was Pfau I picked because I thought her journey was dramatic and remarkable. From communist East Germany to freedom in West Germany. From post Nazi-Europe to Pakistan, a young nation mired in poverty and disease. From a secular background to her conversion to Catholicism and on to missionary work among the poorest in a vast continent.

The book, the first of five, describes that journey. (It has good photos, too.) But it is more than just one woman's autobiographical account. It is also about other people, individuals who risk their lives in order to save other lives. The sick, the dying, the dead, the healed, the living. Pfau names them, tells their story, too. She is almost never alone.

Pfau writes in the first person. She takes the reader by the hand to visit places and people. She is like a video camera that penetrates crannies and caves, hovels and holes of misery and then emerges to show breathtaking vistas of hope. In the process Pfau also reveals her inner self.

I read the book in one afternoon and it left me inspired and feeling deeply for life.

Here are paragraphs from the book to make you go the distance, feel the heat, touch the sores, melt in compassion, celebrate the beauty.

"But the thing that shocked me most was a patient. About my age, nearly 30, a certain Muhammad Rashid. He came from the mountains in the north of the country. And he crawled on his hands and feet like a dog, on all fours. His fellow patients walked calmly around him, unperturbed as if it was all very normal... There was just dull resignation in his voice. As if things couldn't have been otherwise. And he too had only one life to live out—one single life, a life, just like mine! This consent to degradation stunned me."

That was "the morning that decided everything." Instead of proceeding to India, Pfau, who was not yet a full-fledged nun then, decided to stay on in Karachi, at the clinic that later became the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Center.

"Adina, who was kept prisoner in a cave for two years by the people in her village, just because she had leprosy. The cave was only four paces wide. In front was a shoulder-high wall. Her father had thrown her out of the house, his own daughter. The family and villagers had walled her up in this cave... I climbed onto a stone to look down into the cave. I caught sight of a head bobbing ... then it was gone. I stretched my hand over the wall and it was tightly clasped by a hot little hand... I climbed over the wall and jumped down into the cave. And suddenly Adina was in my arms, a young teenager, half naked and shivering with cold."

Her travels across swollen rivers and dusty plains, over mountains and hills in order to heal and educate are something for the movies. As she told CNN, it was unusual for her to sleep in the same bed for two nights.

But it is the chapter on Pfau's search for meaning, how she found her way into the bosom of the Church, her decision to give up marriage (ah, there was a someone) and take religious vows that add a different dimension. This reminds me of Edith Stein, the German-Jew intellectual who converted to Catholicism and found her calling in the Carmelite contemplative life and was later killed in the Auschwitz gas chamber.

Her upbringing, her family's flight to West Germany, her brief encounter with Marxism, medical school, a rich intellectual life and that deep, deep longing—these were the prelude to Pfau's missionary life that plunged her into a world beyond her imagination.

She has her mystical moments, too, in this land of Allah, in a mosque, in the flea-infested moonlight, or while, with heart burning, she dialogues on the "unfathomable mystery of The One." I wish I could share more.

I have done stories on leprosy patients and my encounters with them always left me humbled. Now being prepared is a beautiful book on our own Culion Island, the former "leper colony" (at one time the world's biggest) that is turning 100 years old. It will be out in November. I hope it could complement those of Dr. Ruth Pfau's. Ah, but I have not read a book like hers in a long time.

Remember this: Leprosy is now easily cured.

What really matters

YOUNG BLOOD

Marie Therese Juntilla

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

PEOPLE today have a tendency of doing things for the wrong reasons. Motivation for doing things come from outside sources. I know of friends and some acquaintances in college whose course, and practically whole career path had already been plotted beforehand by their parents. Parents nudge (in some cases push, and even pull, or even drag, kicking and screaming) their children to the direction they want them to take, a supposedly more "successful" direction. What this actually means, more often than not, is that this is a more financially profitable way to go.

But then the old folks are not the only ones who influence us to be a certain way. Our friends can influence us, sometimes even more than our parents do, to dress the way they dress, to think the way they think and to do the things they want us to do. Like we don't see bunches of teenagers whose clothes seem to have been brought in the same store, and which makes it hard to tell them apart.

The biggest influence is society, imposing all these "norms" on everyone. However, these rules of society, more often than not, restrict us only to do certain "acceptable" things, than make us freer to just be ourselves.

I used to be like this. I had dreams, big dreams. Going to graduate school in a prestigious school, having the perfect job with a six-digit salary to boot. Sometimes it felt good to imagine all these things. But sometimes when after fantasizing about what I'd do with the money I had or imagining how I would be if I do get those "dreams" I had, I would suddenly stop and ask myself, "Ok so when you get it, then what?" Yes, I could imagine myself being successful after masters and getting that great job, but somehow I could not see myself happy at the same time. What would be a huge disappointment would be to have achieved all these things, and then not really feeling any joy when you finally get it. You get a vague sort of happiness, "This has happened to me, therefore I should be feeling happy, right about now." You think you're happy, but you don't really feel it.

A couple of weeks ago I discovered, that perhaps these dreams were not really my own. The only good thing I can see happening if you get all that is that you get accepted, even admired by the world at large. But does that really mean anything? Maybe it was a product of too much exposure to media/society giving importance to big flashy profitable pursuits, but doing absolutely nothing for one's soul.

And even if you do succeed, there seems to be a nagging feeling somewhere going, "That's it?"

One day, in the middle of narrative writing class, our teacher told us to write about an article of clothing we have, that we loved. I dawdled for a bit, then looked down on my feet. Still the same ole feet with my ever dependable Birkenstocks. Hey, Birkenstocks, my all-wear everywhere footwear. The sandal that goes with everything I own. The shoe I just really, really like. So that was what I wrote about. Platitudes, praises and compliments on my ratty, worn, but comfortable and dependable Birkenstocks. At that point, I chucked all pretenses out the window, and just wrote about something I really liked, never mind if it seemed silly to write about a shoe. I forgot all about that until the next class. Our teacher handed out typed copies of the best essays that came out. Imagine my collective shock and delight when I saw that one of the essays was my Birkenstock essay. I felt proud. And surprised as hell really. I mean who would have thought that something so simple as that was chosen as a good essay? I sure didn't.

What I realize now was that what really shone through was my love for my shoe which I was able to translate to that essay. I wasn't trying to be profound or smart. I was just writing about something I genuinely liked and the sincerity of that just shone through. I mean sometimes I consciously try to be witty or smart with the things I say or do, and people accept it, but what I thought of was special turns out to be run-of-the-mill, just ordinary.

To me it's absolutely amazing how, the times when you don't even try to be anything else, when you're just expressing your true emotions, when you are just being you, doing the things you love doing, not trying to please anyone and just being happy doing what you are doing, that's the time when you give amazingly excellent output. And you're not even aware that you are doing so well. Because all that you're feeling is just happy. It's weird and it makes perfect sense.

Marie Therese Juntilla, 23, enjoys writing, reading, playing the percussion, dabbling in graphic design and photography.

THEY SAID

Story to tell

"You know, President Ramos has a story to tell and I think those who think they're going to bring him down by investigating him should have second thoughts."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo to critics of the former President on the alleged anomalous power contracts

Point of honor

"I resigned as a point of honor. I will not change that. Honor can't wait."

—Education Secretary Raul Roco on his decision to resign

Friends and enemies

"In politics, it is said that the enemy of my enemy is my friend."

—Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel

Salary and wealth

"There is a direct correlation between economic efficiency and wealth and the professionalism and salaries of civil servants and elected officials."

—Australian economist Michael Bechkman

Hearsay

"How can something be the truth if it's only hearsay?"

—Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina on Fr. Cirilo Nacorda's declaration that Abu Sabaya is still alive

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

RP remains a hard sell

I AM reacting to press releases I have read concerning the recent trip of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon to various cities in the United States to generate interest in Philippine tourism.

I am a Filipino by birth. I was raised and educated and spent the better part of my career in the Philippines. My mother still lives in Manila and I go home every now and then. So I have a lot of interest in the development and progress of our country.

But Gordon faces a gargantuan and possibly an impossible task of luring tourists and *balikbayans* to our country. The Philippines is fast gaining the reputation of Asia's kidnap capital. I believe it has attained this unenviable title already. Kidnapping, carnapping, beheadings, etc. remain unchecked and a regular staple of everyday life in the country. We have proud but stubborn, self-styled nationalists who don't want help from America's military to bring back law and order. Until and unless a tourist can feel safe walking the streets of Manila and riding Manila's taxicabs, exploring the beauty of the countryside and cavorting on white sand beaches, we can kiss tourism goodbye and Gordon's mission will be an exercise in futility.

The government can spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money coming up with beautiful presentations but it will still be a hard sell. We have to make the country safe for everyone—the citizens, the tourists, etc.

But peace and order will not return at a mere snap of President Macapagal-Arroyo's fingers. I find it amusing and pathetic to read that it takes an order from Malacañang to solve a crime. I get the impression that law enforcement agencies will only pursue criminals and solve crimes when the President wields the stick.

We are consumed with trivial pursuits. There are meaningless distractions like the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez love affair. Who cares? Sure, it sells newspapers. Before that, and I don't mean to be insensitive here, there was the death and funeral of Rico Yan that brought the entire nation virtually to a standstill.

C'mon, enough already. Sure, they send TV ratings soaring. But do these two developments bring about economic prosperity? Are these matters of national interest?

Let there be peace and end lawlessness in the city and the countryside, and you can be sure tourism will follow. We would not even need an articulate Dick Gordon to sell the Philippines. We have a beautiful country. It will sell itself.

—BUNNY ARVILLE,
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

BIR employees support reforms

FOR MANY years, we, the dedicated men and women of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, have kept our peace while we were being pilloried and scorned for the sins of a few. Former Commissioner Rene G. Bañez even accused some of us of being "saboteurs" of his reform agenda "by deliberately cutting back (tax) collections."

We say firmly that we have never been opposed to reforms. In fact, we welcome some salient provisions of the Bañez-initiated and proposed Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA), such as: freedom from political influence; a merit-based promotions system; and financial autonomy. We, however, empathetically oppose the non-inclusion of or the vague provisions on the following: security of tenure; early retirement program and separation benefits. The Bañez-initiated IRMA dues not actually provide for realistic compensation and benefits package. These are what we have been fighting for.

The BIREA took exception to Bañez's claims which were meant to cover up his administration's dismal collection shortfall. At least 90 percent of the collection shortfall was caused by the large taxpayers service, and the regional and district offices of Metro Manila. Most of the incumbents in these offices were handpicked by Bañez to replace capable men and women whom he sweepingly denounced as "corrupt."

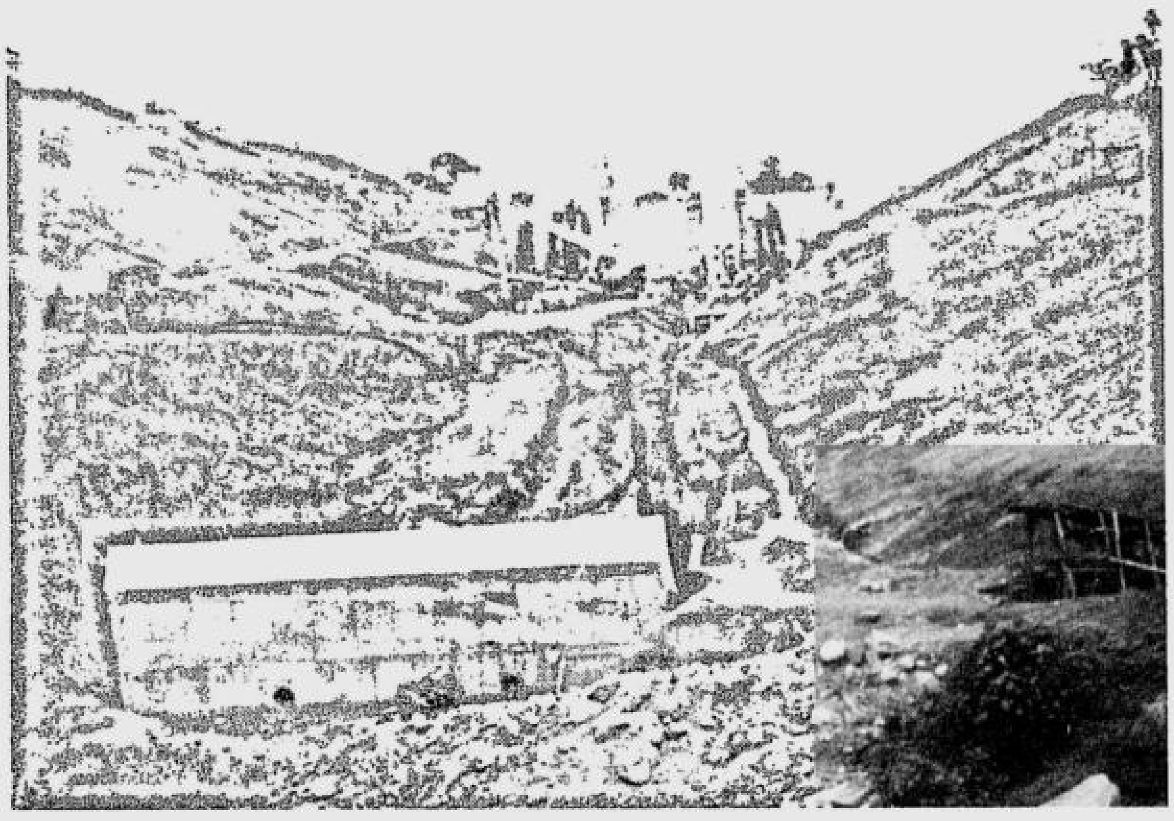
The times are not great, but the economic climate should not be blamed for the double-digit shortfall in collections. Neither should Bañez blame alleged "saboteurs" for his downfall. The gauge of a BIR head's efficiency lies in his ability to deliver on the BIR's principal mission: to collect the right taxes for the government.

In the bureau's history, we have welcomed with pride and respect and placed utmost confidence in 29 commissioners. Past BIR chiefs consciously worked on carrying out its mission. The majority of us in the bureau can affirm that Bañez forgot all about collection in his single-minded pursuit of "transformation."

Now, Bañez's time is past. We hope our little voices will be heard.

We warmly welcome Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno as we affirm our commitment to help in his efforts to arrest the collection shortfall. At the same time, we also appeal for fairness as he institutes reforms and effects changes.

—PERCIVAL SALAZAR,
president, Bureau of Internal Revenue Employees Association (BIREA)



Fears about Caliraya spillway are baseless

ALLOW us to clarify the issues raised by Tony Bergonia in an article, titled "Bad vibes pounding Caliraya spillway" last Aug. 26, the editorial the next day and in the column of Neal Cruz last Aug. 30.

The vibrations in the old Caliraya spillway occur only when it is being used. This is attributed to its design: an old funnel-tunnel type design, unlike the more recent open-channel kind. The vibrations are caused by the water as it is being spilled and passes through the elbow transition portions. The funnel, at the inlet, is in a vertical position and the outlet tunnel is slightly inclined but generally horizontal, so there is an elbow transition. Please take note that these elbow transitions have been adequately repaired in 1997 to 1998. Its steel linings were replaced and voids and cracks in between were filled with cement through a process called pressure cement injection or grouting.

The Caliraya spillway was last used on Oct. 1, 1995, when 45,000 cubic meters of water were passed through it. That was three years before the repairs were undertaken. Before that, it was used from Oct. 21 to 24, 1994, when almost 63 million cubic meters of water were spilled.

Best practices in utility operations dictate that as much as possible we avoid using the spillway because that is equivalent, if not tantamount to, wasting water. Instead, the water should be productively diverted or coursed through the water turbine to generate power.

When a big volume of inflows is expected due to typhoons and heavy or abnormal precipitation, the reservoir is "evacuated" of its content by continuously operating the power plant at full capacity for so many hours or days so that there will be enough storage space for the big volume of water. Opening the spillway gates is always the last resort.

At present, a new spillway is being constructed, and it is of the open-channel design. It has a rated capacity of 500 cubic meters per second (CMS). There is also an existing open channel spillway with the same rated capacity, which is referred to as the emergency saddle spillway. And there is still another one called the Lumot Morning Glory Spillway. Lumot also has a free-flowing spillway (without gates), which automatically spills excess water if the reservoir reaches its holding limits.

These facilities are being used precisely to protect the public, especially those living in the vicinity of the CBK complex. Aside from their use as power generators, dams are also utilized to mitigate the excessive flow of water during heavy typhoons, which could cause heavy flooding.

We in the National Power Corp. strongly believe in the right to self-expression and freedom of the press. What we do not adhere to is the presentation to the public of information filled with half-truths, misinterpretations and quotes that are taken out of context. This is like crying wolf over something the people should not have any fear about. Let us not create monsters where there are none. If the people themselves have any concern about our operations, it will be our pleasure to address them and answer their questions.

—DENNIS S. GANA,
OIC, division manager, corporate communications department, National Power Corp., Corner Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Is government now on a witch-hunt?

I AM appalled at the views expressed by Government Corporate Counsel Amado Valdez on the case he filed against Public Works Undersecretary Mabini Pablo, as reported by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan in her Aug. 29 column. To think that Valdez used to be the law dean of a university in Manila!

Valdez is correct in describing the problem of large-scale government thievery as "systematic." He is wrong, however, to "presume serious neglect" by Pablo just because of the sheer size of the scam (P143 million). He should know that the issue of one's guilt or innocence doesn't depend on the gravity of the offense alleged.

In an earlier column, Cunanan wrote that Pablo had claimed that copies of the related documents weren't even required to be furnished him. The Commission on Audit itself never disallowed any of the transactions in question. For that matter, the internal committee investigating the scam didn't include Pablo in its proceedings right up to the day the case was filed.

Valdez doesn't bother to refute any of these facts. He doesn't even tell us what administrative procedures Pablo could or should have followed in order to properly discharge "command responsibility" down to the level at which the scam took place. I suspect this is because such procedures may not even exist.

What is more troubling to me, however, is Valdez's assertion that the state's interests in suspending Pablo "must not be subordinated to the right of the individual." In the same breath, Valdez callously dismisses the pain of an innocent man in Pablo's situation as simply "akin to the suffering of innocent tissues during an intrusive cancer operation."

Do we, the general public, deserve to have these views inflicted upon us as a matter of government policy? Are these views supposed to be the new standard by which the administration will conduct its otherwise well-intentioned drive against corruption? On top of everything that we must endure daily, must we now also contend with official witch-hunting?

The "strong republic" to which we all aspire is by no means a totalitarian republic. It is not a republic that will compromise the individual and the innocent, no matter how tempting it may become at times to let the end justify the means.

Public officials who do not understand this are really no different from the Pasay City policemen who shot an innocent child-hostage together with him tormentor. It's really as simple as that.

—GARY B. OLIVAR, Quezon City

Illogical Pag-IBIG program

LAST Aug. 22, I saw a paid advertisement of Pag-IBIG in our major newspapers. The ad encouraged delinquent borrowers to avail themselves of a Pag-IBIG condonation program. Among the come-ons was reduced interest rate for those who will restructure their loans. The program promised a reduced interest rate of 9 percent to 14 percent.

Upon reading this, I immediately called to inquire if borrowers who were up to date in their payments could also avail themselves of the reduced interest rate. To my utter shock and dismay, I learned that Pag-IBIG has no similar program for such borrowers!

I believe that Pag-IBIG's new program is an ill-conceived one. Do they mean that one has to be a delinquent borrower to enjoy the reduced interest rate? Only in the Philippines can one run into such stunning piece of logic.

No wonder, Pag-IBIG has billions of uncollected debts!

—EMMANUEL V. SIERRA,
Blk 75 Lot 82 La Paz Homes II,
Trece Martirez City, Cavite

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Survival of the fittest

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOUTH Africa's President Thabo Mbeki called it a "savage principle." Opening a world summit on sustainable development last week, Mbeki referred to some of the problems of globalization, particularly the ways in which economic policies were widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

Mbeki warned about these policies, saying: "It is as though we are determined to regress to the most primitive condition of existence in the animal world, of the survival of the fittest."

Many people associate the term "survival of the fittest" with Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection, but the phrase was first used by a social scientist, Henry Spencer, who explained it as a matter of the "constitutionally fittest to thrive under the conditions in which they are placed."

Darwin borrowed Spencer's phrase to develop his theory of evolution, proposing that nature "selects" for traits that are best adapted to a particular environment. The classic example used here is that giraffes with a slightly longer neck would have an advantage over shorter-necked giraffes in an environment with tall trees. More of these long-necked giraffes would survive, and contribute its genes into the population pool.

In an interesting exchange of ideas, Spencer then took on Darwin's theory of natural selection, together with his own concept of "survival of the fittest," to develop what we now call Social Darwinism. As the name implies, this involves an application of Darwin's theory of natural selection to the study of society.

Social Darwinists say that inequalities, whether based on class or race, are "natural." In such a situation, those who are not "fit" will die out. This is seen as good for society because the process weeds out the "unfit," a term which eventually took on connotations of the "weakest."

Social Darwinism was also used to justify laissez-faire capitalism, laissez faire being French for letting people do as they please, with a minimum of government interference. The idea here was that if human societies were similar to nature, with this survival of the fittest, then it would be wrong for governments to intervene in ways that might encourage the survival of the unfit.

Spencer, for example, was opposed to public schools. If the poor couldn't afford education, then that was their problem. The fact that they were poor already meant they were not fit. Giving them an education might only mean more of such "unfit" people surviving.

Sadly, many of these Social Darwinist ideas persist in our economic policies. The essence of 21st-century globalization and free trade is in fact laissez-faire capitalism: too bad if you can't compete well enough to survive.

The irony in all these Social Darwinist ideas is that even in biology, "survival of the fittest" does not necessarily mean a survival of the biggest, or strongest, or the most aggressive. Biological evolution is a matter of group survival, the "fittest" being those that have a combination of different traits that allow them to adapt to the environment.

Many natural and social scientists now point out that part of this adaptation is the evolution of cooperation. All across the animal (and even plant) kingdom, we find survival is enhanced where there is cooperation within, and among, species. Flowering plants survive so well because their bright colors and strong scents attract insects that help to spread pollen. Among many animal species, something as simple as a tendency to huddle together—a behavior which we interpret in dogs and cats as cuddly love—probably served a more vital role as a survival mechanism during severely cold weather.

The evolution of cooperation is most dramatic in humans. In fact, it was rather symbolic that the conference on sustainable development was held in Africa. As Mbeki pointed out at the beginning of his speech, Africa is the cradle of humanity—we all came out of Africa. That fact should make us reflect even more deeply on the human evolutionary context of Mbeki's references to "survival of the fittest."

With early humans, the ability to cooperate, including a sharing of resources among the unproductive, was vital for survival. Much smaller and "weaker" than many other species, it was important that we cooperated to procure food and to defend ourselves from predators. This evolution of cooperation was as important as the tools we crafted.

Anthropologists also note now that an important evolutionary development in humans is a prolonged dependency period. Note that among other animals, mothers will provide for the young only for a short period. Humans are different, providing for our offspring way into young adulthood (and, as some parents know only too well, way into old age for other offspring).

A prolonged period of childhood and a distinctly human developmental stage called adolescence (you don't have canine and feline teenyboppers) allowed societies a longer period to pass on accumulated wisdom to the next generation, thus making them more "fit" for survival. Note how much of this training is in terms of social skills, of learning to live and work with other people.

It should not be surprising that humans have developed to the point where we now give special attention to the disabled, the sick, the elderly, or to any group that seems disadvantaged. We, too, are the only ones willing to spend for the care of other species. We do all this not necessarily because we perceive certain benefits. We do it simply because we think it is the right thing to do. When you think about it, this ability to care for what seems "unfit" is, ultimately, what makes us fit for survival.

***

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Beginning of the end for GMA

TO WHAT depths of degradation will this administration descend in order to stay in power?

The resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco from the Cabinet signals the beginning of the end for the Macapagal administration. With Roco's departure from the government, Ms Macapagal lost one of the most credible and competent men—and all because Roco knows honor and decency which is quite rare in this administration.

The way the President bungled her dealings with Roco (even assuming that the charges against him by nincompoops in the Department of Education were true) shows how insecure she feels about people like the secretary who only last month topped a poll of possible presidential candidates in 2004.

I congratulate Roco for his courageous decision to sever his ties with a government that does not know how to respect honor and dignity; not to speak of due process. It is time for us to wake up to reality and rally behind a decent, competent and courageous man such as my *kababayan*, Raul Roco.

—REV. SALVADOR D. EDUARTE,
Luna Colleges, Tayug, Pangasinan

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq offer of new arms checks a ploy, says US

WASHINGTON—The United States Tuesday dismissed as a ploy Iraq's latest offer to allow UN weapons inspectors to return and said it was committed to ousting Iraqi leader Saddan Hussein regardless of whether the inspections resume.

Iraq is unlikely to allow the thorough inspections needed to ensure Baghdad is not developing nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said.

"I haven't seen any indication on their part to agree to anything, except as a ploy from time to time," Rumsfeld said.

"There might be inspections. The inspections might be this, that or the other thing. And then you'll find at the last moment, they'll withdraw that carrot or that opportunity and go back into their other mode of thumbing their nose at the international community."

Rumsfeld and White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Washington wanted Iraq to live up to its commitment to allow inspections mandated by UN Security Council resolutions, but both insisted that would not be enough to satisfy the United States.

"The policy of the United States is regime change with or without inspectors," Fleischer said.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, en route to Johannesburg last Tuesday, conceded there were differences in the US administration over how to tackle Iraq but insisted that President George W. Bush was engaged in "serious" consultations on what action to take.

Earlier Rumsfeld had dismissed an split as "baloney." ". . . what's important is what the president says, and what's important is what the president decides," he said.

Powell, viewed as a moderate on potential military action in Iraq, was also insistent that the weapons programme being conducted by Iraq under Saddam was a real "danger" to the international community.

Iraq "is a very serious issue and we discuss it in a very serious way.

"There are lots of views in the administration, outside the administration, up on the Hill, throughout the talk shows, the media, and throughout the international community."

Two senior Iraqi officials earlier hinted at a resumption of inspections amid a flurry of diplomatic activity designed to avert a possible US strike.

Visiting Cairo for Arab League meetings on the possibility of a US attack, Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said a "return of inspectors is part of UN Security Council resolutions, and we call for the application of these resolutions." In Johannesburg, Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Iraq was ready to cooperate with the United Nations in ending the standoff with the United States.

President George W. Bush has labeled Iraq part of an "axis of evil" and said it threatens world peace by supporting terrorism and developing weapons of mass destruction. *AFP*

Poll: US foreign policy partly to blame for 9/11

CHICAGO—A majority of Europeans believe that US foreign policy is partly to blame for last year's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington DC, according to a poll released Wednesday.

All told, 55 percent of Europeans believe the attacks by the radical al-Qaida Islamist group on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were a product of US policy overseas to some degree.

Many Europeans, as well as Americans, are critical of President George W. Bush's handling of foreign policy issues, according to Worldviews 2002, a survey of more than 9,000 Europeans and Americans.

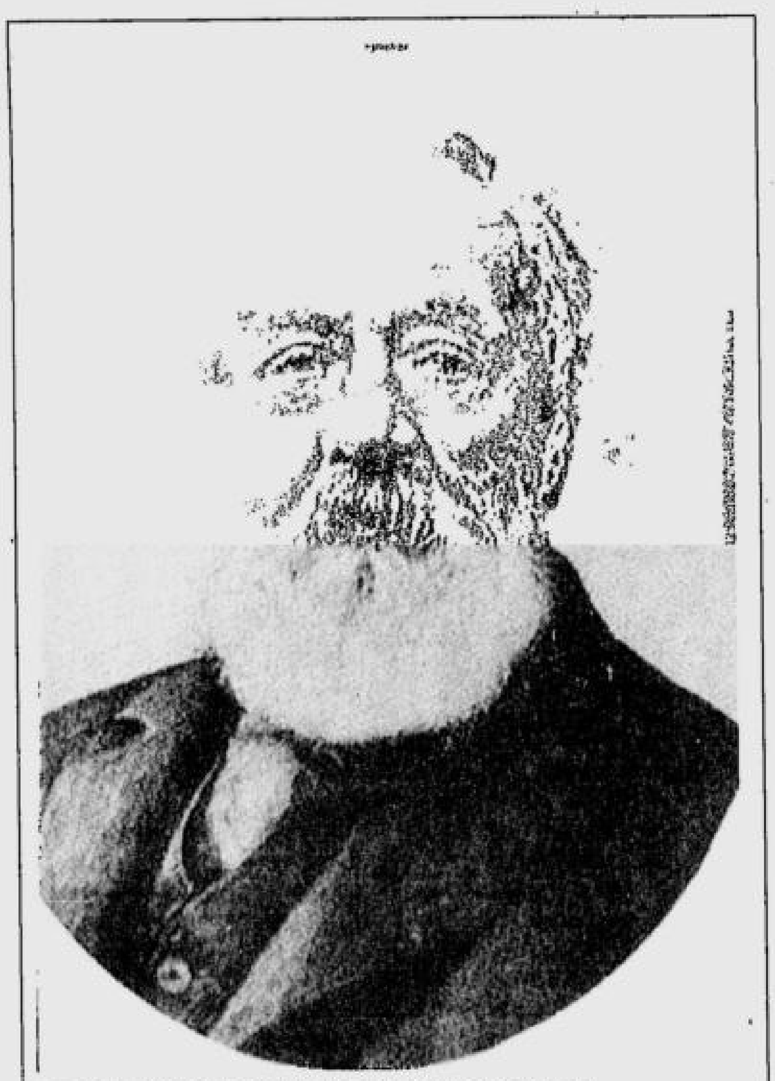
The massive survey, billed as the most comprehensive survey ever of US and European foreign policy attitudes, was undertaken jointly by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Only one-fifth of the respondents thought Bush was doing a good job handling the Arab-Israeli conflict and/or the standoff with Iraq over weapons inspections.

"Despite reports of a rift between US and European governments," the survey "finds more similarities than differences in how the American and European publics view the larger world," said Craig Kennedy, president of the German Marshall Fund.

"In facing a world transformed, there is fundamental agreement regarding friends, enemies, and the need for both the European Union and the United States to play cooperative roles in world affairs," he said.

The poll finds that Europeans believe terrorism is the number one foreign policy threat facing the ir continent. *AFP*



DOES THE NAME MEUCCI RING A BELL? AP
An undated print shows Italian inventor Antonio Meucci, who, according to Italians, was the inventor of the telephone while Scotsman Alexander Graham Bell got the credit for it. In June, the US House of Representatives declared that, essentially, the Italian was ripped off by the Scotsman.

Amnesty slams expulsion of Palestinians

LONDON—Amnesty International Tuesday condemned as a "war crime" the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to allow the expulsion to the Gaza Strip of two relatives of a West Bank militant accused of organizing a double suicide bombing.

"Today's ruling effectively allows for a grave violation of one of the most basic principles of international human rights law - notably the right of any accused to a fair trial and to challenge any evidence used against them," the human rights group said.

"Anyone suspected of a recognizably criminal offence should be promptly charged and brought to trial. Otherwise, they should be released."

In a much-anticipated ruling, Israel's Supreme Court said earlier Tuesday the army could banish to Gaza two West Bank Palestinians related to a slain militant.

Kifah and Intissar Adjuri, the siblings of an Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades militant who sent two suicide bombers to Tel Aviv, were found to have directly assisted their brother.

However, the court thwarted plans to also expel another brother not directly involved in helping his sibling.

The Israeli government had wanted the expulsions to serve as a deterrent to future attackers.

"Amnesty International believes that such unlawful forcible transfer of relatives of people allegedly responsible for attacks against Israelis is being used by the Israeli government and army as a form of collective punishment. *AFP*

Japan PM plans apology to N. Korea

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi plans to apologize for Japan's 36-year colonization of the Korean peninsula when he meets North Korean leader Kim Jong-il this month, Kyodo news agency reported on Tuesday.

An apology, along with compensation for Japan's harsh colonial rule between 1910 and 1945, have long been demanded by North Korea as a condition to progress long-stalled talks on establishment of diplomatic relations.

Kyodo quoted government sources as saying Koizumi was expected to say: "I express sincere remorse and heartfelt apology for considerable damage and pain" caused by Japan.

The sources said it was hoped the statement would set the stage for progress on issues dividing the countries, including the sticky issue of 11 Japanese that Tokyo believes were abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s to train spies.

Koizumi will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit North Korea when he travels to Pyongyang on September 17, but he will not be the first to issue a statement of regret about Japan's colonial past, a source of bitterness in North and South Korea.

Koizumi's statement would be similar to one made in 1995 by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the sources said.

In 1998, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi also expressed remorse and an apology in a Japan-South Korea joint declaration. In 1989, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, speaking in Japan's parliament, expressed deep remorse and concern over colonial rule.

Koizumi has said Japan will never establish diplomatic ties with the North without settling allegations that Pyongyang abducted the 11 Japanese. North Korea denies abducting anyone, but has agreed to launch an investigation into the "missing."

Koizumi's popularity has soared since he announced last Friday he would make the historic visit to North Korea—underscoring the risks he faces if he comes back empty-handed.

Talks on establishing diplomatic between North Korea and the peninsula's former colonial ruler have been stalled for two years over a host of issues, most recently an incident in December in which a suspected North Korean spy vessel sank after an exchange of fire with Japanese coast guard ships.

Japan is also worried about the North's missile program.

Relations deteriorated sharply in August 1998 when North Korea launched a rocket over Japan's main island. *Reuters*

express teller
international
3185 0036 82
MARICEL GONZALES
Go cashless shopping with Express Teller's EPS
Express Cash
5577 5300 1689 0452
5577
03/01-02/03
TRIXIE ENRIQUEZ
FOR USE WITH ELECTRONIC TERMINALS ONLY
VALID ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES
Electronic
or bring out your Express Cash...
and get the chance to win ₱100,000 in BPI and National Book Store's
CUT PRICE CASH PRIZE!

It's so easy to join!

- Every EPS or Express Cash purchase worth at least P500 at any participating National Book Store branch from August 15 to September 15, 2002 is equivalent to one raffle en[illegible]
- Your transac[illegible] serves as your raffle stub.
- Simply write yo[illegible] address, telephone number and signature at the back of the receipt and [illegible] promo drop box located at the Customer Service Area.

See standees for [illegible]

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

National
Book Store

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposit insured up to P100,000.

Participating National Book Store Branches:
QUAD • Shangri-la • Katipunan • Superbranch • Galleria • Ali Mall • SM Southmall • SM Sucat • Shaw Blvd Robinsons Novaliches • Recto • Metromall • Greenbelt • SM Megamall • Robinsons Ermita • Festival Mall Quezon Avenue • Sta Lucia East • SM Centerpoint • Virramall • Ever Pasig • Robinsons Imus • Tutuban Alabang • SM North EDSA • Sucat • Harrison Plaza • SM Manila • SM Fairview • Q Plaza • SM Bacoor Coastal Mall • Farmers Plaza • Rizal Avenue

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 1484 and 3038 Series of 2002

A10 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

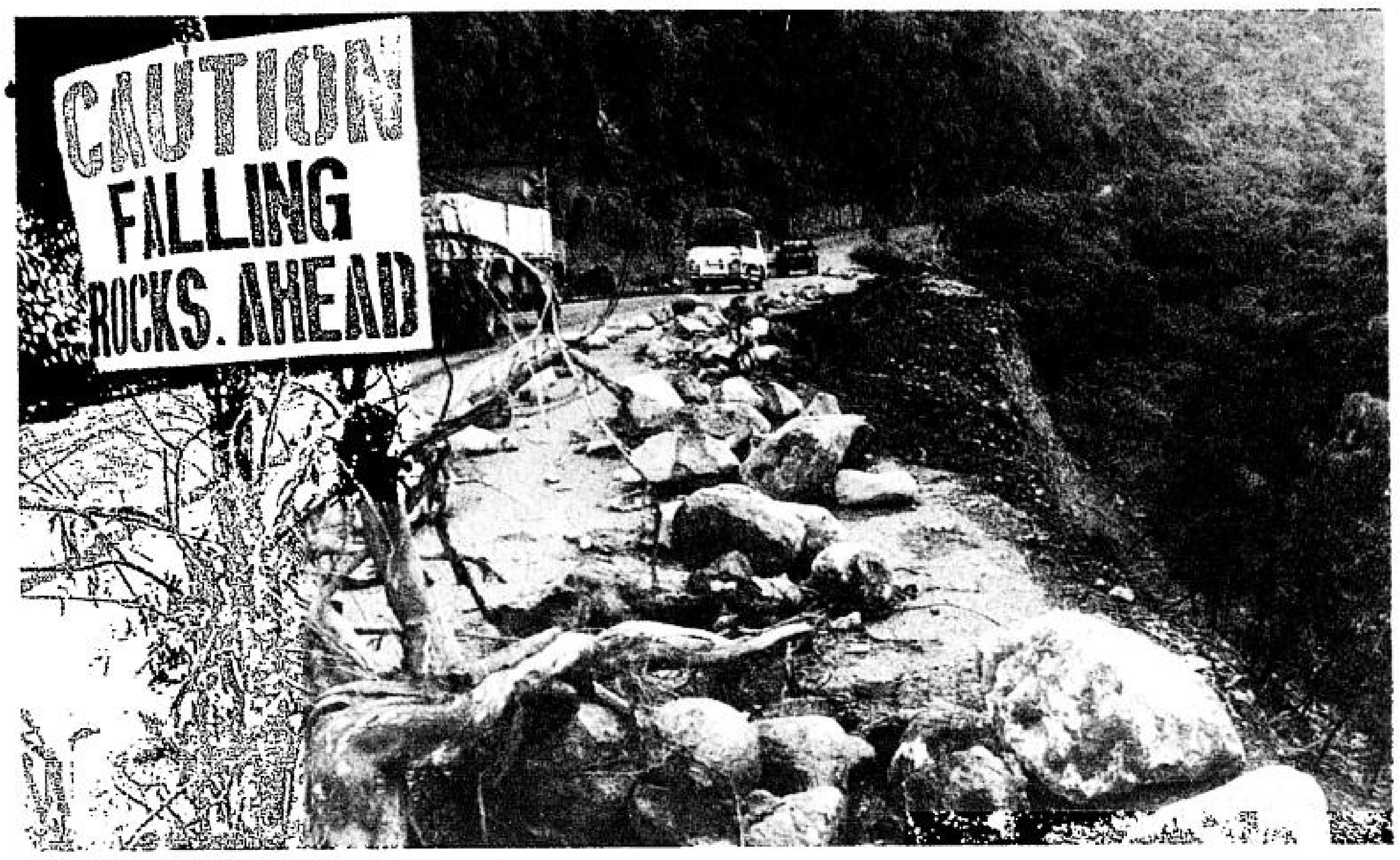
NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

'Jueteng' suspect drops political bid



FALLING ROCKS
Its a warning sign that must not be ignored especially since evidence of what the sign warns about could be found just below it.
ANGELITO "TOOTS" SOBERANO

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pressured on all fronts, Melchor Caluag, a barangay captain who also reportedly operates jueteng in Pampanga, has dropped his plan to vie for the top post of this city's Association of Barangay Captains.

Rodolfo Ferraren, director of the Department of Interior and Local Government in Central Luzon, on Tuesday confirmed the withdrawal of Caluag from the ABC race.

He said Caluag first aired his commitment not to run during their meeting at the DILG office here on Aug. 29.

On the same day, Ferraren said, he summoned all barangay captains to his office and, one by one, the captains were asked to shed light on reports that Caluag allegedly offered them free trips to Hong Kong, including pocket money worth P100,000 each.

The DILG is investigating the charges of bribery against Caluag.

In a closed-door meeting where he was also present, Caluag also announced to his rival, incumbent ABC president and San Agustin barangay captain Armando Santos, his plan to withdraw from the race, Ferraren said.

As of Tuesday, DILG records showed that Caluag had not yet filed his candidacy for the ABC top post. Only Santos has registered his bid for the post.

"Let's wait and see if he (Caluag) makes true his plan," Ferraren said. The filing of the certificate of candidacy ends on Sept. 6.

By withdrawing from the ABC race in the city, Caluag appeared to have also abandoned his plan to clinch the chairmanship of the ABC Federation in Pampanga.

Opposition to Caluag's entry in local politics had come from San Fernando Mayor Reynaldo Aquino, most members of the city council, and provincial and police officials.

Police reports said Caluag, 30, runs jueteng games in San Fernando and Angeles cities, Guagua and Mabalacat town—Pampanga's biggest jueteng turf.

He allegedly operates jueteng in other Pampanga towns, sharing the territories with two or three jueteng financiers.

Authorities renewed their campaign against jueteng following the relief of four ranking police officers for their alleged failure to stop the illegal numbers game in their areas.

Jueteng is known to be tolerated by officials in exchange for bribe. *Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Hot logs seized

SORSOGON CITY—Sorsogon City policemen recovered 33 pieces of assorted logs estimated to be 600 board feet in an abandoned motorboat. In a seaborne patrol operation along the coast of Sitio Beso, Barangay Sto. Niño, Bacon District Tuesday, police spotted suspected illegal loggers on board the motorboat and ordered them to stop. But the motorboat sped toward the Bacon-Manito boundary. The suspects then unloaded logs, which prompted the police to fire a warning shot that made the suspects jump into the sea and swim to shore. The banca is now under the custody of barangay officials while the recovered logs are in police custody.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New crime busters

LEGAZPI CITY—At least 1,220 barangay teams composed of the barangay committee on peace and order chairpersons and chiefs and assistant chiefs of village volunteer security men convened Monday at the Albay Astrodome for a meeting on crime prevention. Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara, Bicol Peace and Order Council chair, said the project aims to prepare barangay officials in their battle against crime, especially when no policemen are assigned in the villages. The project is in line with this year's National Crime Prevention Week Celebration held Sept. 1-7.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Violence mars festivity

LEGAZPI CITY—Three persons were stabbed and another one was shot during a thanksgiving celebration of newly-elected barangay officials of Mabini, Ragay, Camarines Sur on Sept. 1. Benjamin Millare, 29, suffered stab wounds in the chest and right thigh when Domingo Villareal, 28, stabbed him. Minutes after the incident, the electrical wiring was cut off resulting in a brownout. Four gunshots were then heard. When the power supply resumed, chief *tanod* Virgilio Millare, 50, was found dead with multiple stab wounds in different parts of the body. Joselito de Castro, 28, was stabbed in the chest while Petronilio Rivera, 26, was shot in the right arm.

Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fisherman electrocuted

LEGAZPI CITY—A 22-year-old resident of Barangay Sta. Cruz, Ligao City was electrocuted around 1:45 p.m., Sunday, as he was fishing with the use of an electrical wire in Matanglad River, Barangay Bobunsuran, Ligao City. Allan Capuz died instantly. The victim's body is now at the Nuestra Señora de Salvacion.

Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fire damages P1.8M

PILI, Camarines Sur—A fire of unknown origin razed 55 stalls at the public market here on Monday. Fire marshall Felipe Abella said the fire, estimated to cost P1.8 million, started at a stall selling mats and handicrafts. Abella said the fire started at about 2:30 a.m. and was controlled after two hours. He said the firefighters have difficulty putting off the fire because the place is in narrow alleys.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rally vs UPLB chancellor

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—About 1,000 students, teachers and employees of the University of the Philippines here, Manila and Diliman converged here on Thursday to demand payment of their cost-of-living allowances for 12 years and the non-reappointment of Dr. Wilfredo David as UPLB chancellor. Leaders lambasted the leadership of the four UP units for their inability to authorize Cola payments since 1989, which, they claimed, now amounts to more than P1 billion. The protesters addressed their demands before the Board of Regents' meeting here.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PROVINCE'S ECONOMY THREATENED

Disease strikes Negros Oriental livestock; outbreak feared

DUMAGUETE CITY—An outbreak of hemorrhagic septicemia has downed livestock in at least seven towns in Negros Oriental since last week.

The disease, according to provincial veterinarian Antonio Mutia, so far infected at least 317 cows, 11 carabaos and four goats.

Outbreak

The outbreak would adversely affect the agriculture-driven economy of Negros Oriental. Livestock raising is one of the province's top earners, with Metro Manila as its main market. Also, many of the farms in the province are small-scale and most farmers depend on their carabaos to till their lands.

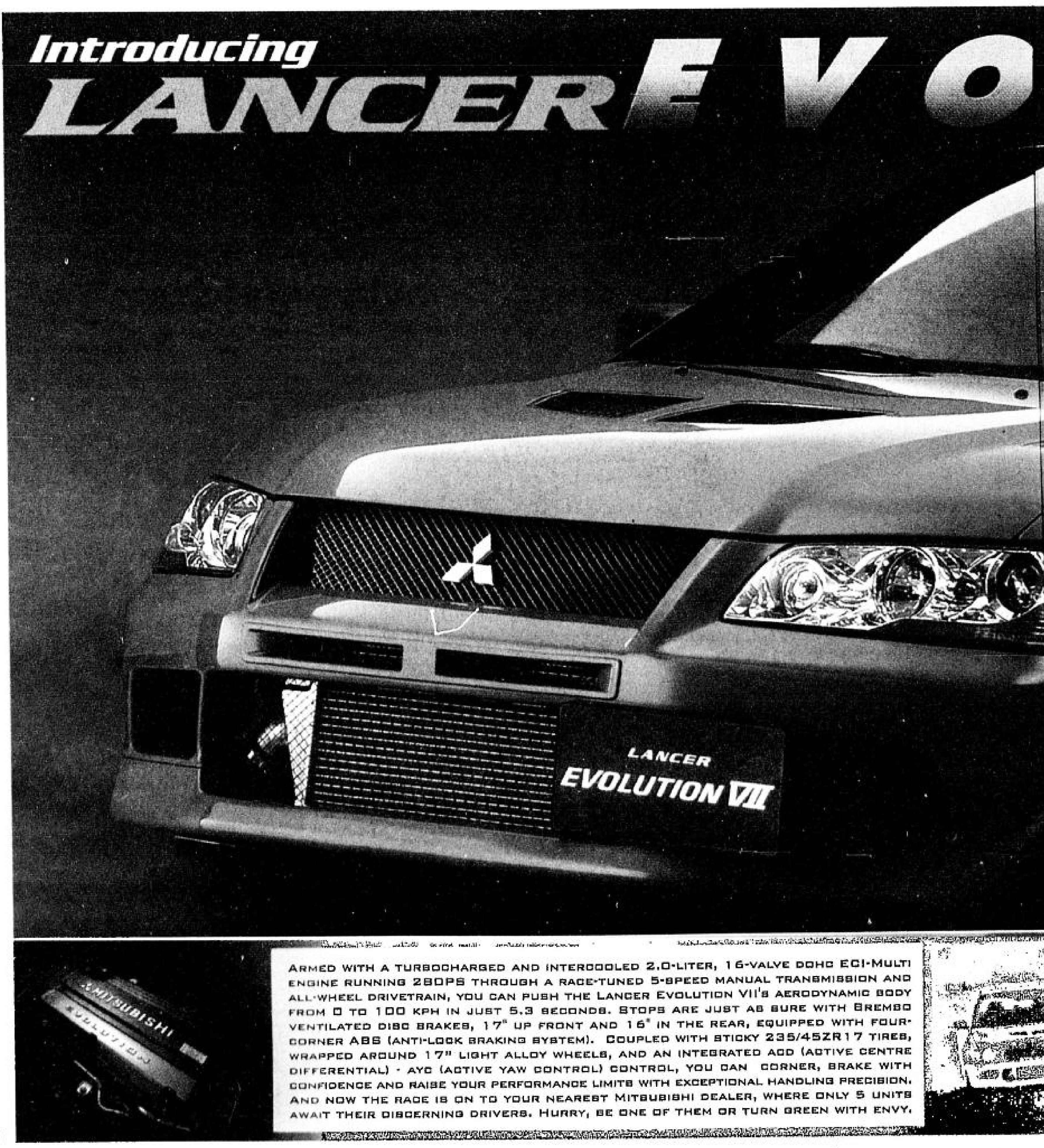
Mutia said 14 cows and four carabaos have so far died of the disease. The mortality rate was, however, minimized because of the timely treatment administered to the infected animals, he said. Early reporting of the incident also helped in preventing massive deaths of livestock animals.

But the number of infected livestock could be higher since there were still a number of livestock owners who failed to report the incident to their respective municipal of city veterinary offices.

Aggravated

In 1997, Mutia said around 400 cows and carabaos died because of a similar outbreak of the disease which was aggravated by the failure of livestock owners to report the upsurge of the disease to veterinary authorities.

Hemorrhagic septicemia, a contagious bacteria-borne disease among cloven livestock, struck heavily in the towns of La Libertad, Mabinay, Guihulngan, Jimalalud, Sta. Catalina, Siaton and Bayawan, Mutia said. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*



ARMED WITH A TURBOCHARGED AND INTERCOOLED 2.0-LITER, 16-VALVE DOHC ECI-MULTI ENGINE RUNNING 280PS THROUGH A RACE-TUNED 5-SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION AND ALL-WHEEL DRIVETRAIN, YOU CAN PUSH THE LANCER EVOLUTION VII'S AERODYNAMIC BODY FROM 0 TO 100 KPH IN JUST 5.3 SECONDS. STOPS ARE JUST AS SURE WITH BREMBO VENTILATED DISC BRAKES, 17" UP FRONT AND 16" IN THE REAR, EQUIPPED WITH FOUR-CORNER ABS (ANTI-LOCK BRAKING SYSTEM). COUPLED WITH STICKY 235/45ZR17 TIRES, WRAPPED AROUND 17" LIGHT ALLOY WHEELS, AND AN INTEGRATED ACD (ACTIVE CENTRE DIFFERENTIAL) - AYC (ACTIVE YAW CONTROL) CONTROL, YOU CAN CORNER, BRAKE WITH CONFIDENCE AND RAISE YOUR PERFORMANCE LIMITS WITH EXCEPTIONAL HANDLING PRECISION. AND NOW THE RACE IS ON TO YOUR NEAREST MITSUBISHI DEALER, WHERE ONLY 5 UNITS AWAIT THEIR DISCERNING DRIVERS. HURRY, BE ONE OF THEM OR TURN GREEN WITH ENVY.

Benguet starts war on foreign, smuggled veggies

BAGUIO CITY—To save the Benguet vegetable industry, vegetable traders here have cooked up "marketing blitzes" that would discuss the "potential hazards" of smuggled or imported vegetables from China, Taiwan and Australia.

Marketing experts have started consolidating organic vegetable farmers to pilot a "genuine organic vegetables market" here to compete with pre-packaged Australian cabbages, broccoli, carrots and potatoes now sold in Metro Manila markets, said Victor Calimlim, a local market leader.

They have also discussed plans to ship surplus Benguet vegetables to Zamboanga and Tawi-Tawi as donations to Filipino refugees, who were recently deported from Malaysia.

Goodwill

The goodwill could help widen the market for the Benguet vegetable industry.

In July, the Bureau of Plant Industry allowed the importation of 3,348 kilograms of Australian carrots and 5,758 kg of assorted vegetables like lettuce and broccoli on behalf of Rustan's Supermarket and Tuckerbag Inc., a hotel supplier.

The importation displaced P21 million worth of Benguet vegetables from their regular markets.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor later discovered traces of smuggled vegetables from China that had penetrated major markets like Divisoria and even the La Trinidad trading centers in Benguet.

"We need to fight fire with fire. Our farmers are losing heavily each day these imported vegetables (crowd out their products) from the market. We are hoping the Department of Agriculture can provide us information about the conditions of these (imported or smuggled) products," Calimlim told the INQUIRER.

Laced

Reports said some vegetables from abroad were laced with formaldehyde, a chemical preservative, but Dr. Elizabeth Verzola, DA regional director, said the agency failed to detect the presence of formaldehyde or unusual degrees of pesticides in imported carrots, cabbages and broccoli in tests conducted last week.

Montemayor reportedly ordered these tests following his surprise inspection at the La Trinidad market.

A Benguet trader said DA officials had initially detected the scent of a "formalin solution" from Australian carrots.

Verzola said the imported vegetables carry a two-week extended shelf life compared to locally grown vegetables.

"We could not detect any agent that might have kept (these imported vegetables) that fresh. Our laboratory facilities here are modern and up to par with the latest (technology), but our equipment saw no signs of pesticide traces," she said.

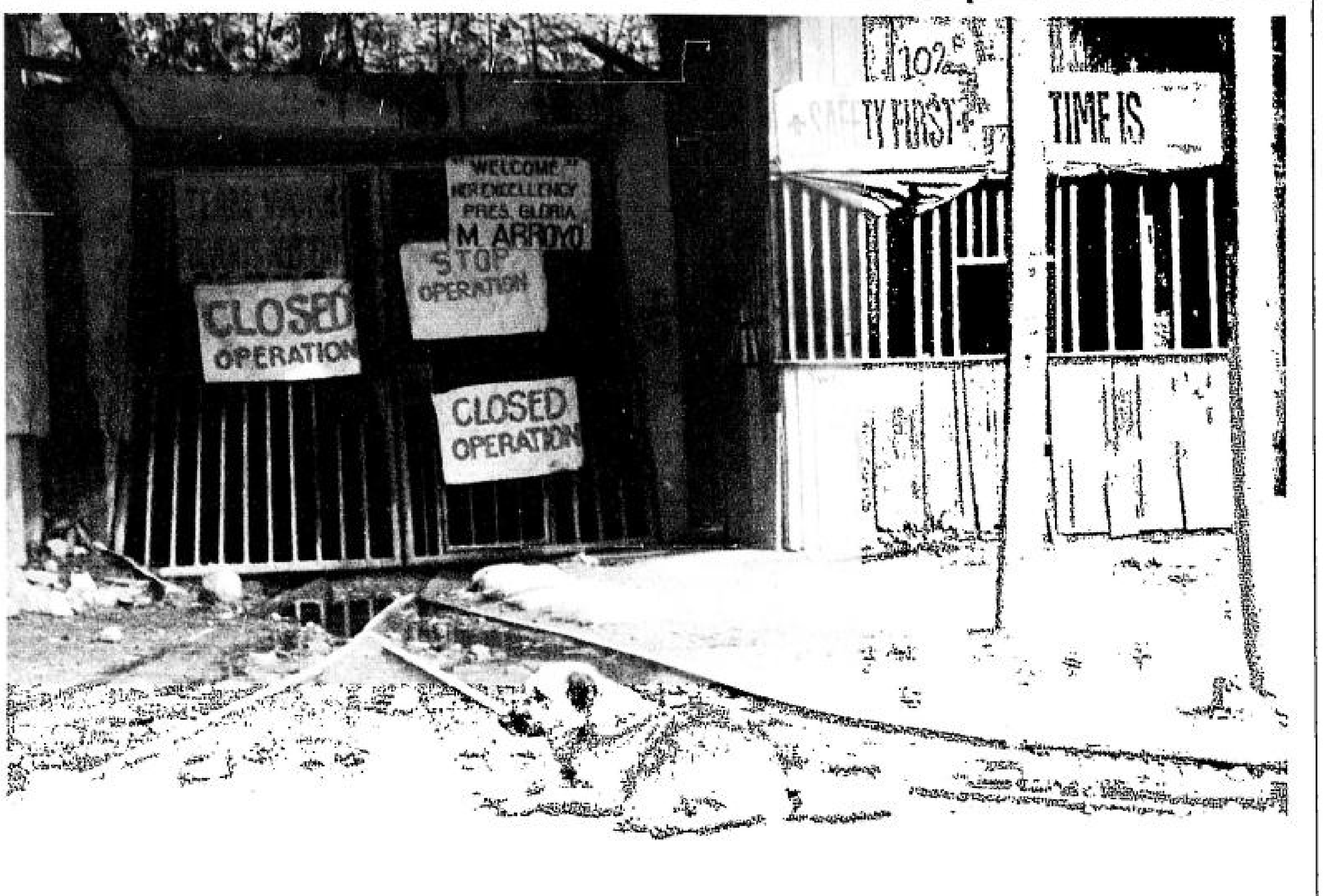
Findings

Baguio traders said the DA's findings could be the break they needed.

"What if the (smuggled or imported) vegetables are GMOs (genetically modified organisms)? *Mas maraming takot dito sa ganoon* (More people today are fearful of GMOs). Maybe we can use that. Maybe the DA can study that aspect (of this controversy)," Calimlim said.

He said vegetable traders would need to venture into the "organic farming" markets, to determine whether their "healthy but expensive" top-quality vegetables could outmatch the "imported GMOs," Calimlim said.

"To date, only 0.05 percent of Benguet's farms are certified as "organic farms," DA records showed. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



LOCKED
Signs posted on the gates of a mining tunnel in Mt. Diwalwal speak for themselves. The tunnels have been ordered shut by the government following a series of violence linked to the fight over mining claims in the area. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Lapses' led to clash between soldiers, cops

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police and Army investigators affirmed there were "lapses" that led to a clash between soldiers and policemen here but kept mum on who should be blamed for the gunfight that left a town police chief and two of his men dead.

Col. Alphonsus Crucero, 303rd Infantry Brigade Commanding Officer, declined to reveal the result of the investigation but he told reporters in Bacolod Monday that they "already know what happened."

The encounter on Aug. 26 in Guihulngan town left the town's chief of police, Senior Insp. Ramil Viscaya, and his men, SPO4 Modesto Lagusad and SPO4 Jaime Provechado, dead.

The Army investigated it after a survivor, SPO1 Raghuber Besario, told police that they were fired upon by soldiers from the 66th Infantry Battalion as they were trying to paddle a banca to safety in Barangay Basak, Guihulngan.

The policemen were ambushed by armed men, whom they thought were communist guerrillas, since they were on a pursuit operation against a group of rebels who earlier that day had waylaid and killed the chief of police of nearby Vallehermoso town, Senior Insp. Leopito Gallego and SPO3 Cipriano Saludes.

The New People's Army operating in Negros Oriental had claimed responsibility for the ambush-slaying of Gallego and Saludes but insisted that they were not the group that figured in the gunfight with the police team led by Viscaya.

The bodies of Viscaya, Provechado and Lagusad were found by search teams in waters off Guihulngan days after the incident.

"It's unfortunate that the two commanders who could have provided information were the ones who were killed," said Senior Supt. Ernesto Belen, officer in charge of the Central Visayas Police Regional Office (PRO-7).

Belen said that Viscaya was supposed to wait for troopers from the 66th IB based in Barangay McKinley in Guihulngan before they moved out to the ambush site in Barangay Basak, but Viscaya decided to pull out of the police station without waiting for the Army.

"He must have had information (that) prompted him to move right away. We will work back and find out where the lapses took place," Belen assured.

Belen also said police should improve their intelligence gathering to ensure that personnel movements were properly done to prevent a repetition of the clash.

The results of the Army and police investigation will be reviewed by a panel that recommend also how the clash could be avoided.

Belen said insurgency remains a threat to national security and is the primary responsibility of the military, with the police providing support.

SPO1 Besario and SPO1 Cielo Cupta received medals.

NPA guerrillas abduct Davao Norte tribe chief

DAVAO CITY—New People's Army guerrillas abducted a tribal leader from Kapalong, Davao del Norte for allegedly convincing his people, who joined the communist movement, to return to the fold of the law.

Police authorities in Southern Mindanao said Datu Latigan Mansaloon, of Sitio Nasiguran of Barangay Gupitan, had been missing since Aug. 5, but it was only recently that the NPA admitted to having a hand in his disappearance.

Police said Leonardo Pitao, alias Commander Parago, was the leader of the abductors of Mansaloon.

Parago was arrested in November 1999 and was charged in connection with the kidnapping of Army Gen. Victor Obillo and Capt. Eduardo Montealto, but he eventually jumped bail and reportedly went back to the underground.

Mansaloon's relatives said Parago's group was demanding three Armalite rifles in exchange for the freedom of the tribal leader.

The police said they already coordinated with the military to go after Parago's group and rescue the tribal leader.

Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said the NPA has resorted to terrorism against civilians who refuse to support the communist movement.

Dagudag said the NPA has not only kidnapped innocent civilians, but also worsened the miserable condition of people in the hinterlands by extorting money from them.

He said the NPA has also been harassing civilians by burning buses.

"This was the reason why the government launched an all-out war against them," Dagudag said.

But Dagudag quickly explained that the government's declaration of an all-out war against the communist movement was not limited to military action.

"This all-out war declared by President Arroyo against the New People's Army rebels has been greatly misunderstood. War has many components. There is the armed component such as what the AFP is doing. The other components of war will be fought by other sectors like the national government and the population itself. In totality, that is what we called war, war against insurgency, war against terrorism," Dagudag said.

He said unless the people help in battling the communists, the government's effort would not succeed.

"We can win all the battles but we will lose the war. *Dennis Jay Santos and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

LUTION VII
Warning: Might create envy7

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!
WE'RE EVERYWHERE TO SERVE YOU:
METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS - Makati - Tels. 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS - Las Piñas - Tels. 876-1745, 873-6503, 876-1766, 875-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR - Greenhills - Tels 727-0351 to 75, 721-0336, 724-5353 DIAMOND MOTOR - Marcos Highway - Tels. 645-4801 to 05, 681-4101, 681-4133 DIAMOND MOTOR - Quezon Avenue - Tels. 372-3901 to 15 414-9440 to 42, 414-9433 to 37 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview - Tels 418-3042, 935-3731 to 32 DIAMOND MOTOR - Valle Verde - Tels 671-9590 to 94, 671-4391, 671-4397 UNION MOTOR - Abad Santos - Tels. 251-7021 to 35, 253-1372 to 74 UNION MOTOR - Paco - Tels 563-8481 to 85, 563-8461 to 67, 563-5679, 563-5086, 563-5088, 562-7203 UNION MOTOR - Kalookan - Tels. 364-20-61 to 69, 364-0147, 364-0149, 364-0422, 364-9762 MITSUBISHI MOTORS - Balintawak - Tels. 330-8901, 330-8903 LUZON: CARWORLD - Pampanga - Tels. (045) 961-2601 to 03, 961-3466, 961-5609, 961-3040, 961-5620 CARWORLD - Tarlac - Tels (045) 982-5551 to 53, (045) 982-4640 CARWORLD- Marilao- Tel Nos (044) 711-2895 to 2897, 711-2469 CARWORLD - Malolos - Tels (044) 791-6320, (044) 791-2405 to 06, Cel No (0918) 231-7819 CARWORLD- Olongapo- Tel Nos (047) 224-4307 FREEWAY MOTOR - Baliuag (044) 766-4235 to 36 FREEWAY MOTOR - Isabela - Tel 682-8401 FREEWAY MOTOR - Cabanatuan - Tels (044) 463-1391, 463-5105 MOTORPLAZA - Calasiao - Tels (075) 517-3060 517-5635, 517-6204 MOTORPLAZA - Urdaneta - Tel. (075) 568-2502, 568-3312 MOTORPLAZA - Bauang, La Union - Tel (072) 242-0610, 705-6050 MOTORPLAZA - Baguio City - (074) 300-3571, 446-0157 SFM SALES - Lipa City - Tels. (043) 756-6522 to 25, 756-5194, 756-1018 SFM SALES - San Pablo City - Tels (049) 562-0680, 562-0691 CALEB MOTOR - Naga City - Tel. Nos. (054) 811-6119, 473-4955, 473-4977 VISAYAS: AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod - Tels. (034) 435-2111 to 14, 433-0551 AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo City - Tels (033) 337-8486, 335-0748 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU - Tels (032) 345-1233, 420-5777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS DUMAGUETE - Tel. (035) 225-1428 MITSUBISHI MOTORS TACLOBAN - Tel (053) 323-3724, MITSUBISHI MOTORS TAGBILARAN - Tel (038) 411-5815 MINDANAO: MITSUBISHI MOTORS BUTUAN - Tel. (085) 815-3089 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CAGAYAN DE ORO - Tel (088) 855-1546 / (08822) 732-608 KARASIA - Davao/North - Tels. (082) 222-1111 to 13 KARASIA - Davao/South - Tels. (082) 298-1490 to 93 KARASIA - Tagum - Tel. (084) 217-3582 MINDANAO INTEGRATED-Gen. Santos - Tels. (083) 302-0586 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS - Zamboanga City - Tels (062) 993-0786, 991-2250, 991-2138

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Diplomacy sets Chinese poachers free

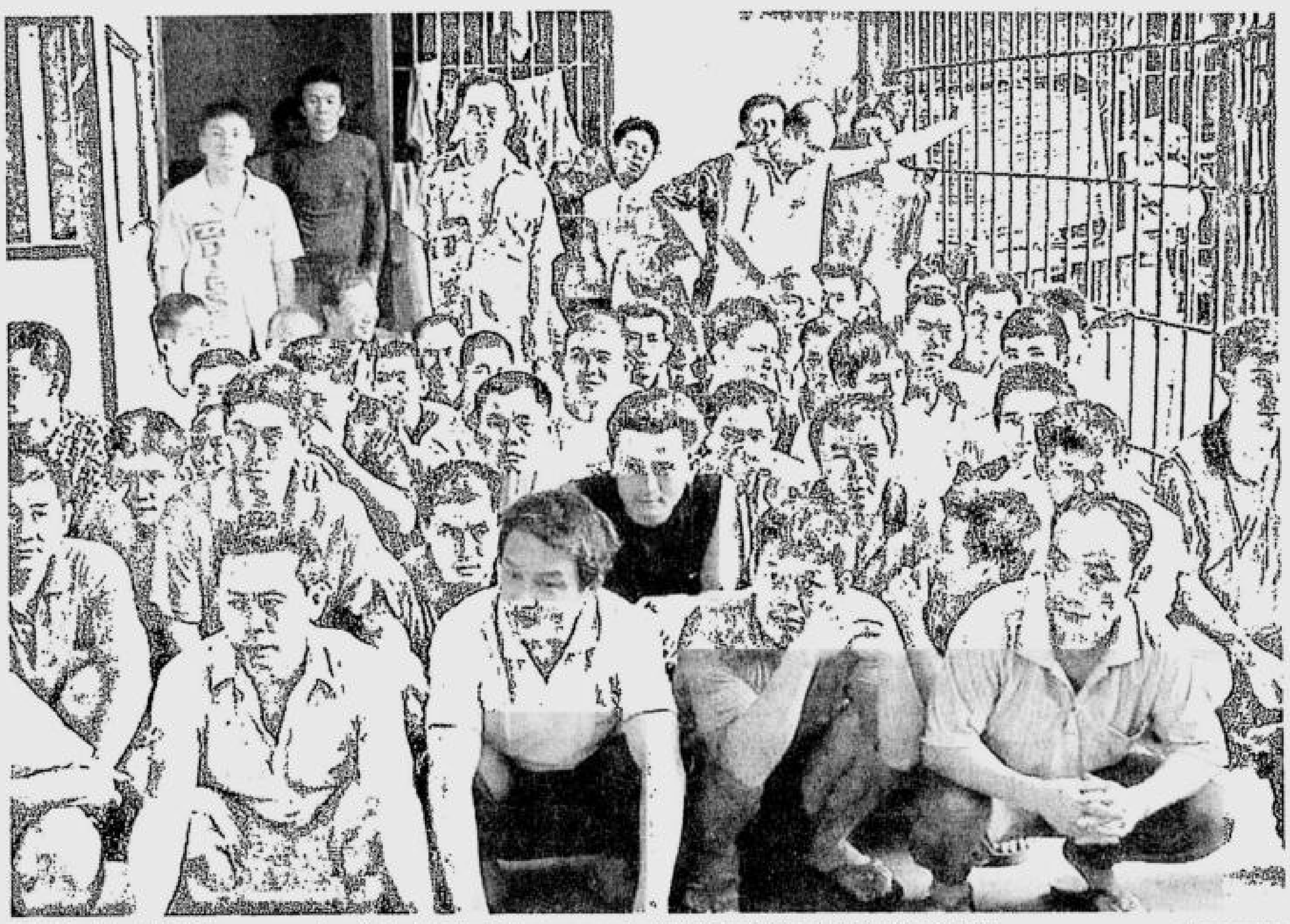
By Dominique Monera-Tabora
Puerto Princesa City

EMOTIONALLY draining and frustrating" was how lawyer Adelina Benavente-Villena of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) described the ordeal her group went through in its efforts to prosecute 122 Chinese poachers now jailed in Palawan.

From January to May, the Philippine Navy caught and filed charges of poaching and illegal fishing against 136 Chinese nationals fishing in Palawan waters. Fourteen of them are minors who have been released, and the provincial prosecutor has dismissed the charges against the 122 remaining despite strong evidence in favor of the government.

The PCSD has filed a motion for reconsideration.

Recent reports quoted Foreign Secretary Blas Ople as saying that the Philippines would release the 122 Chinese in time for the visit of Chinese leader Li Peng, chair of the National People's Congress of China, in Manila next month.


SOME of the 122 Chinese poachers jailed at the Palawan provincial jail for fishing in Palawan waters. CELSO QUILING

Poaching

Six cases of poaching have already been filed before the regional trial court in Puerto Princesa City.

Under Sec. 87 of Republic Act No. 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, the entry of a foreign fishing vessel in Philippine waters "shall constitute evidence that the vessel is engaged in fishing in Philippine waters." Violators must pay a fine of $100,000 and their catch, fishing equipment and vessel confiscated.

Fisheries Administrative Order No. 200 defines the circumstances under which foreign fishing vessels can be apprehended for poaching. It states that the Department of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, can impose an additional administrative fine of $50,000 to $200,000 on violators.

Despite the apprehension of 45 foreign vessels in Palawan waters by joint forces of the Philippine Navy, the Philippine National Police Maritime Group and the Coast Guard, the penalties set by RA 8550 have not been carried out fully.

Of the 22 poaching cases filed in court by the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants (PCIE), not one offender was prosecuted to the fullest, despite overwhelming evidence in favor of the government.

The only conviction of the Puerto Princesa RTC was handed down in 1999 when it ruled on a poaching case involving 50 Malaysians. Sixty-six kilos of *lapu-lapu* (live groupers) caught in their possession tested positive for sodium cyanide.

The court imposed a fine of $100,000, but not a single cent was paid as it later ordered the release of the Malaysians after their ambassador requested leniency in exchange for the freedom of Filipino fishermen caught in Malaysia.

Arrested

From 1995 up to June this year, Philippine authorities apprehended 695 foreigners and 45 foreign vessels for poaching. Of those arrested, 484 are Chinese, 132 Malaysians, and the rest Vietnamese, Indonesians and Taiwanese.

The 45 cases of intrusion were referred to the PCIE. In its report, the PCIE "set aside" 10 of the cases "based on national diplomacy and interest." It repatriated the foreigners aboard their vessels without imposing fines.

The PCIE report also showed that 13 of 27 cases of poaching and illegal fishing were amended to lesser offenses of malicious mischief, while nine were dismissed for lack of evidence despite sworn statements that the foreigners were caught fishing.

The inability of law enforcers assigned in far-flung areas to attend the hearings also resulted in the immediate dismissal of the cases.

Last year, nine apprehended foreign fishing vessels were released and their crew members were repatriated. Eight of the vessels came from China and one from Vietnam. All poaching cases filed against the Chinese fishermen were dismissed.

Coordination

The National Commission on Illegal Entrants (NCIE) was created "to ensure effective coordination among member agencies in the investigation and disposition of cases involving the illegal entry of foreign nationals and vessels."

It is mandated to implement all Philippine laws on illegal entry, smuggling and illegal fishing within the national territory, including the Kalayaan Island Group, as defined under Presidential Decree No. 1596. In Palawan, the NCIE is represented by the PCIE.

The NCIE is tasked with expediting government processes in the resolution of cases involving foreigners, but its composition—with the secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs as chair, seconded only by those of the Department of Justice and of the Department of National Defense—often compromises the disposition of cases for diplomatic considerations.

Executive Order No. 236, which created the NCIE, was issued after 62 Chinese were caught fishing off the Kalayaan islands on March 25, 1995. Confiscated from them were 100 dynamite sticks, 40 kilos of cyanide powder, bottles of cyanide dispensers, five gallons of ammonium nitrate and an undetermined number of blasting caps.

Red corals, shark fins and 40 turtles were also recovered from the fishing vessel.

But the charges of illegal possession of explosives and fishing using explosives filed against the Chinese were amended to malicious mischief. After pleading guilty to the lesser offense, most of the Chinese were granted pardon by then President Fidel Ramos after a brief stay in prison.

Thus, a precedent of allowing foreign nationals to escape certain conviction through plea bargaining was started in 1995 and it has since affected all succeeding cases filed against foreign poachers in Palawan.

Legal loopholes

Malicious mischief is a crime against property. Article 327 of the Revised Penal Code defines those liable for the crime as "any person who shall deliberately cause the property of another any damage . . ."

But under Article 328, the use of "any poisonous or corrosive substance" is cited in special cases of malicious mischief. This clause was repeatedly used through the years to allow Chinese poachers to evade the full force of the law.

While Section 87 of RA 8550 penalizes poaching by the imposition of fines and confiscation of fishing vessels without imprisonment, Section 88, which covers fishing through explosives and poisonous substance, prescribes imprisonment of six months to two years for those found with "mere possession of explosive, noxious or poisonous substances . . ."

Section 97 also makes it "unlawful to fish or take rare, threatened or endangered species as listed in the CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) and as determined by the Department (of Agriculture)." Violators face 12 to 20 years of imprisonment and/or a P120,000 fine and forfeiture of the catch.

Sections 97 and 88 are entirely different from Section 87.

Marine products

In spite of the confiscation of hundreds of marine turtles and giant clams from apprehended foreigners, not one was charged with and convicted of taking endangered species in violation of the Fisheries Code. Neither was anybody convicted of using dynamites and cyanide while fishing.

One Coast Guard officer expressed his frustrations by commenting in Filipino: "It is a waste of time to apprehend foreign fishermen as they are immediately released by the court."

A prime example was the repatriation of 34 Chinese aboard their vessels, the Quiong Qiong Hai 02038 and 02039, after they were apprehended while catching marine turtles by members of the 412nd PMG and PNP Maritime Group on May 29, 2001.

The Chinese were charged with poaching and illegal possession of endangered species by the PCSD, but no fines were slapped on them.

The PCIE, under the NCIE directive, set aside the complaint for the sake of "national diplomacy and interest."

Two days after the arrest of the Chinese, their embassy wrote the DFA, saying that "on May 27, two Chinese fishing vessels from Hainan province were fishing in the traditional fishing ground in the South China Sea when No. 02039 encountered engine failure and drifted.in (sic) the waters close to Palawan."

The letter added that "No. 02038 came to the rescue . . . and managed to repair the troubled engine . . . when the two vessels with 34 crew were about to go back, they were suddenly intercepted and finally detained by the Maritime Police in the town of Quezon, Palawan."

Since "the crew have no intention of entering or conducting fishing activities in the Philippine waters . . . the Philippine side is respectfully requested to have the fishing boats released as soon as possible on the basis of the humanitarian concerns and the friendly relations between our two neighboring countries," the embassy said.

Different story

When interviewed by the INQUIRER, the apprehending officers disputed the allegations of the Chinese Embassy. They said the two fishing vessels were in good working condition and each of them equipped with a global positioning system and radar that can indicate their exact location.

In their sworn statements, SPO3 Marcelino Malimban, SPO3 Vivencio Buncag, PO3 Rhueber Guanco and two civilian informants said that at about 5:30 p.m. of May 29, 2001, they boarded the two Chinese vessels and found more than 150 dead turtles.

On June 4, 2001, the DFA informed the Chinese Embassy that the 34 Chinese would be released on humanitarian grounds. In its letter, the department said it "avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy . . . the assurances of its highest consideration."

No less than the Chinese consul general, Zhu Tao Ying, came to Palawan to look after the welfare of his countrymen on June 5, 2001.

On June 7, 2001, acting Foreign Assistant Secretary Antonio Rodriguez wrote then PCIE head Supt. Jacinto Dino to expedite the case of the two Chinese fishing vessels.

He recommended that the case be docketed and a resolution obtained within the week "for humanitarian considerations and to keep the momentum and the goodwill generated by the recent visit" to China of Vice President and then Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr.

Before the Chinese fishermen were released, a news report stating that Guingona had decided to deport them was faxed to the PCIE by the Chinese consular office on June 2, 2001.

Barely three months after they were released through the DFA's intervention, the two Chinese vessels were again apprehended by Coast Guard personnel while catching marine turtles 700 yards off Barangay Berong in Quezon town.

Local fishermen reported that the vessels were seen several times catching giant turtles in the municipal waters of Quezon and Rizal.

Bargaining

Since 1995, the DFA, through the NCIE, has repeatedly intervened in most of the poaching and illegal fishing cases filed against foreign nationals. The intervention has often resulted in token convictions and minimum fines imposed on foreign nationals violating fishery laws of the country.

One case that created a furor in Palawan was the immediate release of 20 Chinese fishermen who were arrested by Navy men on Nov. 29, 1998. The fishermen pleaded guilty to the crime of "other mischief," which is punishable by one month imprisonment although they had been charged with poaching, which carries a heavier penalty.

Two dead turtles, cyanide dispensers, assorted fish, powder and liquid solutions, all tested positive for sodium cyanide, were confiscated from the Chinese.

One provincial prosecutor, who asked not to be identified, admitted to being pressured by the executive department after the arraignment to release the Chinese as part of efforts to maintain good diplomatic relations with China.

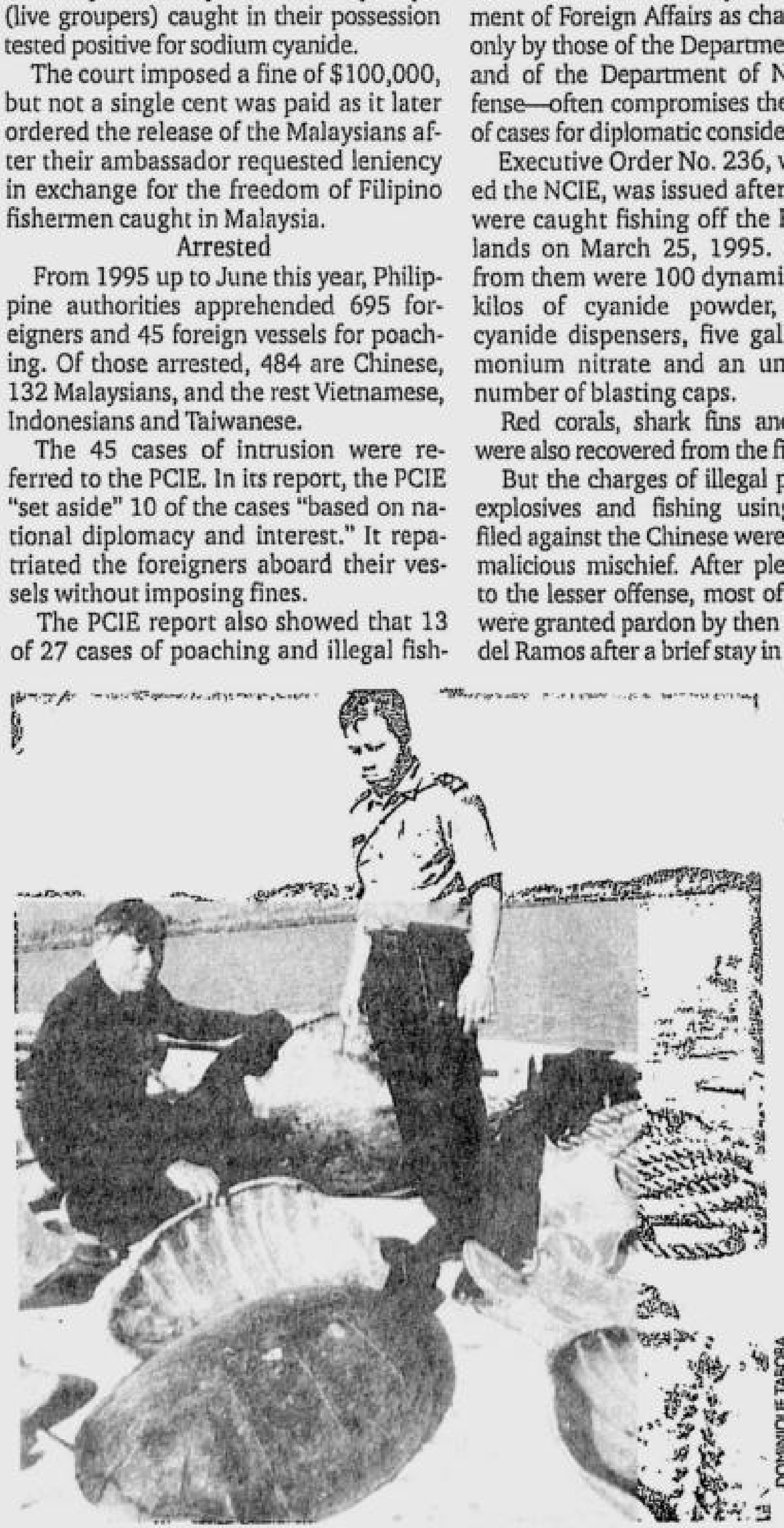
Lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda, executive director of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac), criticized the intervention as a "mockery of our laws." Her group described the release of the Chinese in January 1999 as "a pathetic exercise of wimp diplomacy."

The incident, Elac said, "established a de facto foreign policy characterized by compromise and absence of political will in the face of aggressive incursions on Philippine claimed territory."

The apprehension of 116 Chinese fishermen in February prompted Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra (second district) to denounce in a privileged speech in Congress "the continuous intrusion of Chinese fishermen in our national territory," particularly the waters surrounding Palawan."

"The seeming prioritization of the Philippine government of maintaining amicable ties with the Chinese government has resulted in repeated violation by Chinese fishermen of our territorial and environmental laws and the ultimate depletion of our fisheries resources as well as the continuing loss of the endangered species," he added.

Alarmed by the spate of poaching incidents in Palawan, provincial officials and heads of government and non-government agencies have banded together to fight for the prosecution of the 116 Chinese fishermen.


DOMINIQUE TABORA
POLICE officials recover empty turtle shells from illegal poachers.

Will those with 'lesser offenses' please stand up?

By Diwa Aquino
Legazpi City

A PROPOSAL to impose administrative fines and deport Chinese poachers found guilty of committing "lesser offenses" is now awaiting President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval.

. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., head of the Western Command based in Puerto Princesa City and member of the National Commission on Illegal Entrants (NCIE), said that during its meeting last Monday, the agency suggested that the court study the cases filed against the Chinese poachers individually as some of them might not be liable of committing the crime.

In a telephone interview, Carranza said the committee recommended that those found to have committed lesser offenses be turned over to the Chinese Embassy for deportation. Each of them also faces a fine of P50,000, he said.

"Some of the apprehended fishermen were merely passengers and they were made to believe that everything was legal," he said.

Carranza made it clear that only those responsible for the poaching cases—particularly the owners of the vessels, captains and some of the crewmembers—who had committed several intrusions into Philippine territory, should stay to face the criminal charges filed against them.

"The retention of the captain and the crew responsible (for the poaching) and the confiscation of the six vessels are the least we can accept," he said.

"If we keep the captains here, their vessels also stay in our territory," he added.

Carranza also said their proposal aims to decongest the provincial jail. "The jail can only accommodate 200 people. Now we already have 400. Of course, we still try to give them proper treatment, but their living condition is poor and the jail is becoming unsanitary. This (congestion) could lead to outbreaks of epidemics and other diseases."

"Those who violated the law will still be punished even if the captains rot here," he said.

Carranza clarified earlier reports indicating that Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople had already made pronouncements about the release of the 122 Chinese poachers held in the provincial jail.

The secretary made no such statement, he said.

On Aug. 27, Ople met with Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui to discuss the visit of Li Peng, chair of the National People's Congress of China and the second highest official of his country, on Sept. 12-15. The envoy purportedly requested Ople to release the 122 Chinese poachers in time for Li's visit.

Carranza said that according to a DFA official, the secretary made no commitment but told the ambassador that he would look into the matter.

"There was no commitment from the NCIE and the DFA to release the poachers as they (the government agencies) are knowledgeable that the poachers have pending criminal charges. Not even the President can meddle with it," he asserted.

Censors' chief censured, sued

From page A1

ments alleged public information expenses: Receipts for P14.50 from 7-Eleven; P13.75 for mineral water from United Pharmacy; another bottle of mineral water for P12 from a stall outside a movie house in Megamall; P7 for a takeout container from Shinjuku Ramen House on West Avenue, Quezon City.

"A man of ordinary reason would conclude that these expenses are not connected with the public information drive," the affidavit said.

So, in just two months in office, Marilen Dinglasan has incurred P169,264.53 in representation expenses in the guise of conducting public information, the affidavit stated.

This is among the charges and accusations filed yesterday at the Office of the Ombudsman by officers, members and employees of the MTRCB against Dinglasan, their chair and chief executive officer.

They accused Dinglasan of "arbitrary, dubious and unnecessary disbursements of MTRCB funds for public information expenses," according to their affidavit.

"It is lavish, considering that the former chair, Alejandro Roces, incurred only P119.088.99 for the period of one and a half years," the affidavit said.

Dinglasan, however, told the INQUIRER that she was not guilty of any of the accusations. At press time, she had not received a copy of the affidavit and was surprised when she learned about the charges.

"That's crazy," she said. "It's up to them to prove it. Come Sept. 30, everybody's going to be changed so there are people who are trying to make a lot of noise," said Dinglasan, who was a classmate of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Assumption.

Other charges

The complainants also charged Dinglasan with the following: grave abuse of authority and usurpation of the functions of the board; threats; unauthorized use of government vehicle; nepotism; hiring of a law firm as legal consultant despite the fact that there are five lawyers and one career legal office to handle the legal matters of the board; falsification and arbitrary use of the confidential and intelligence funds of the MTRCB.

According to the affidavit, Dinglasan "availed of the entire amount" of P243,000 of the intelligence fund as soon as she assumed office.

The expenses Dinglasan incurred for the public information drive are way beyond the P10,000 monthly petty cash fund from which such expenses are to be sourced, the affidavit pointed out. The affidavit also cited her average consumption of 20 call cards (at least P300 per card), despite the fact that she already has a cellular phone provided by her office.

"We, as MTRCB employees, attest this is the first time we have experienced this type of governance and it has caused great demoralization among the staff members," the affidavit said.

When Roces stepped out as chair of the board last June 21, 2002, the affidavit said he left the agency with a savings of about P600,000.

"But hardly two months after Dinglasan became the chair, the agency is now in a big deficit. The employees are not even sure if they will receive their salary for the month of September."

Grave abuse of authority

A board member confirmed to the INQUIRER that the 32-member MTRCB board was not consulted when Dinglasan hired nine consultants, who are paid from the MTRCB's government payroll.

Some of these consultants are members of Dinglasan's immediate family. Dinglasan's daughter, Rosario, acts as her chief of staff with a monthly salary of P25,000. The censors' chief sister, Rosario Ysmael Palanca, acts as public relations and marketing services consultant, with a P10,000 fee.

The affidavit pointed out that there is no provision in PD 1986 which created the MTRCB, regarding the position of chief of staff, since its functions are already performed by the MTRCB executive director.

Nicasio A. Conti, reportedly the boyfriend of Dinglasan's daughter Rosario, serves as external affairs and special project consultant and gets a monthly retainer of P25,000.

The other consultants are Ishko Lopez, publicist (P15,000); Joselito Masugbo, security and intelligence (P10,000); Arturo Besana, government audit processes (P15,000) and Generoso R. Paz, internal operations and procedures (P15,000).

The affidavit also questioned Dinglasan's hiring of the Adsum Law Firm as legal consultant, when there are already five lawyers appointed by President Macapagal to the board.

Unauthorized use of car

The affidavit said a Honda Civic with Plate No. UKT 136, supposed to be an agency vehicle for use by the board and/or the staff members for official functions, is now being used by Dinglasan's daughter, Rosario.

The officers and members also said Dinglasan pressured MTRCB chief accountant Aries B. Mirandilla and administrative officer Susan Bandolin into signing vouchers certifying that there are available funds when, in fact, there was none.

When the officers refused to sign the vouchers or follow the instruction of the chair/CEO, the latter reportedly threatened to do something about their non-cooperation.

Expected

Dinglasan said the complaints were expected since she introduced changes in the MTRCB.

"There are people who do run-of-the-mill jobs and I'm not happy, so inevitably, I'm stepping on a lot of toes," she reasoned out.

A board member said Dinglasan was not authorized to remove any staff member of the MTRCB because they are civil service employees.

"She cannot just remove anybody without cause," the board member said. "The members are due for reappointment by President Macapagal."

The board members' additional P2,000 per month retroactive increase had also been compromised because of this deficit.

"All of these are caused by the extravagance of the present chair."

Vice President joins street protest

From page A1

Vice President Macapagal to the presidency.

Various groups in the coalition have also voiced disenchantment over Ms Macapagal's policies as well as appointments.

Roco, touted as one of the leading candidates in the 2004 presidential election, denounced Ms Macapagal on Tuesday for accepting and allowing the distribution of about 400,000 posters and hundreds of "GMA Cares" billboards donated by unidentified private individuals.

Malacañang denied Roco's allegations that the President had violated the Civil Code, Revised Penal Code and Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Law.

March for survival

For his part, Guingona made no allegations that Ms Macapagal had violated any law. But he supported the Free Trade Alliance's "People's March for Survival" opposing the administration's free trade policy.

During the rally, about 1,000 demonstrators led by former Rep. Wigberto Tañada warned Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II that drastic tariff cuts would kill local industries and cause massive layoffs.

To dramatize their point, the demonstrators displayed replicas of a guillotine and an ax.

According to Tañada, the country's industries are being choked to death by the influx of imported goods. He said more industries would further suffer with the reduction of tariff to zero-5 percent by January 2003 under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT) scheduled for implementation in January next year.

Tañada cited the adverse effects of trade liberalization on agriculture as well as the cement, automobile, petrochemical and shoe industries.

He said several companies had already closed down, leaving thousands of workers jobless.

Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman said that the once thriving shoe industry in his district was slowly dying because of the presence of cheap, imported shoes. (Even Senate President Franklin Drilon wears imported, albeit expensive, Ferragamo shoes.)

Roxas faced the protesters, shaking their hands and inviting them to a dialogue in his office.

Door left open

Roxas said the President might defer tariff cuts for petrochemical, agriculture and automotive products under the Asean scheme scheduled next year.

He said the President had ordered her economic team, specifically the heads of the National Economic and Development Authority and the Tariff Commission, to review once more the petition of industries to delay the country's participation in the Asean plan.

Roxas said the President had become more "sensitive" to the plight of local industries that were not yet prepared to slug it out in a free trade regime.

He said that the President was a "trained economist" who was aware of the cascading effects of trade liberalization and the need of industries for more time to adjust to a low-tariff regime.

The President's order was issued on Saturday during a presentation by the DTI on the status of the Philippines' compliance to the Afta-CEPT commitment. At least 95 percent of the country's tariff lines are already 5 percent and below.

The directive was a marked shift from the Macapagal administration's stand to pursue regional trade liberalization.

This softening in trade policy stand came amid mounting protest actions staged by leaders and workers of vulnerable industries in the past few months.

Guingona urged Roxas to take the interest of the local industries and Filipino workers at heart when he negotiates this week with Asean members on the Afta-CEPT scheme.

"I am confident Roxas is on the side of the ailing local business and of the Filipino workers and he will not let us down," Guingona said.

Tañada said his group was planning to hold a rally in Malacañang in a last-minute bid to convince the President to delay the Philippines' participation in the Asean program.

William Paras, president of the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines, said his group remained hopeful that the President would soften her stand on tariff cuts.

The petrochemical industry is lobbying to either increase or maintain duties on resins currently pegged at 15 percent.

Roxas assured the protesters that the government would hear out their complaints and that it would act for the greater good of the economy.

Roxas said it was still possible for the Philippines to invoke the Asean protocol agreement allowing a member country to get exemption for certain industries from the tariff cuts.

Malaysia has already invoked the protocol agreement to maintain the tariff protection on its automotive industry.

Roxas said the Philippines had two chances to use the protocol agreement—at the Asean Senior Economic Officers meeting in Brunei this month and the Asean Leaders Summit in Cambodia next month.

Impeach rap vs Tancangco . . .

From page A1

Puentevella, who led the endorsement of the complaint against Tancangco, was elated with the result of the voting.

He said he expected the complaint to hurdle the next test.

In that case, it will mean a full hearing of the complaint against Tancangco, who was accused by groups led by the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections of betraying the public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

The accusations stemmed from her performance in the Commission on Elections. Namfrel blamed her for, among others, the Comelec's failure to automate the May 2001 polls.

Yesterday's hearing saw the justice committee members voting in two ways.'

During the hearing itself, 14 members voted for the complaint's sufficiency in form. But through the motion of Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, the members agreed to allow absent members to also cast their votes.

The committee was able to get the voting results last night.

Those present at the hearing were members of the People Vs. Tancangco Movement, which include UP professor and economist Solita Monsod and Namfrel executive director Telibert Laoc and legal counsel Jose Bernas.

While Laoc was also elated by the results of the voting, he said he was alarmed by the absence of people identified with Tancangco at the hearing.

"Probably they have a better plan than we do," Laoc said of the pro-Tancangco camp, which had earlier announced plans to gather one million signatures in support of the commissioner.

Deaf-mute beauty disqualified

From page A1

group threatening to file a suit in court, if necessary to obtain justice for one of their own.

A 17-year-old deaf-mute was disqualified from the Miss Bicolandia Beauty Pageant before she could be presented to the media along with the other contestants.

Already, Chona Geruela was all dressed up when the beauty pageant committee decided to eliminate her on Sunday.

Yesterday, deaf mute students rallied in front of the city hall here where a council's session was in progress.

The ralliers talked in sign language, hoisted placards that expressed dismay over and condemnation of the alleged discriminatory practice of the beauty pageant committee.

Teofela Alberto, a teacher of differently able individuals who acted as the spokesperson of the protesters, said her group wanted to let the public know that they were hurt by the treatment accorded to Geruela of Iriga City.

Alberto said she did not want to respond to the explanation of beauty pageant committee member Lourdes Asense, a councilor of Naga City, who said Geruela's disqualification was technical.

Speaking in behalf of the pageant committee, Asense said the basis for Geruela's disqualification was her 5'1" height which fell short of the required 5'3."

She pointed out that other contestants who stood at 5'2" were also denied participation in the presentation.

In the morning session of the city council, the chair of the beauty pageant committee delivered a privileged speech citing the technical basis for Geruela's failure to make it to the beauty contest.

It was not the first time that Asense and Alberto had been at odds. Five years ago, they also had a tussle about the management of the 1997 Miss Bicolandia Beauty pageant.

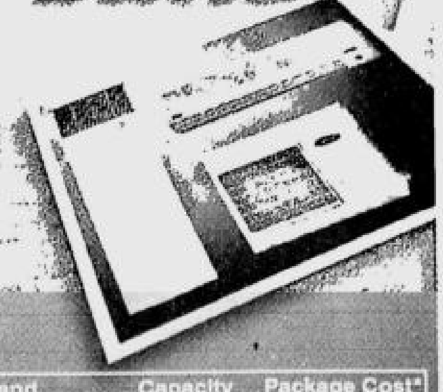
Asense and Alberto traded accusations before the media here after problems in the payments of talent fees surfaced.

Tata Flores, a former councilor and organizer of the beauty pageant, expressed his sympathy for Geruela before the council.

Flores scored the mishandling by the beauty pageant committee that caused much embarrassment to Geruela.

As the uproar grew louder yesterday, Iriga City Mayor Emmanuel Alfelor made a public statement that he would seek redress in behalf of Geruela.

Alberto said Alfelor promised to support whatever action the deaf-mute group decide to do to find justice for their candidate. She said her group was planning to file a suit in courts when necessary.



Attention:
Split Aircon Buyers

LOWEST PACKAGE DEAL!

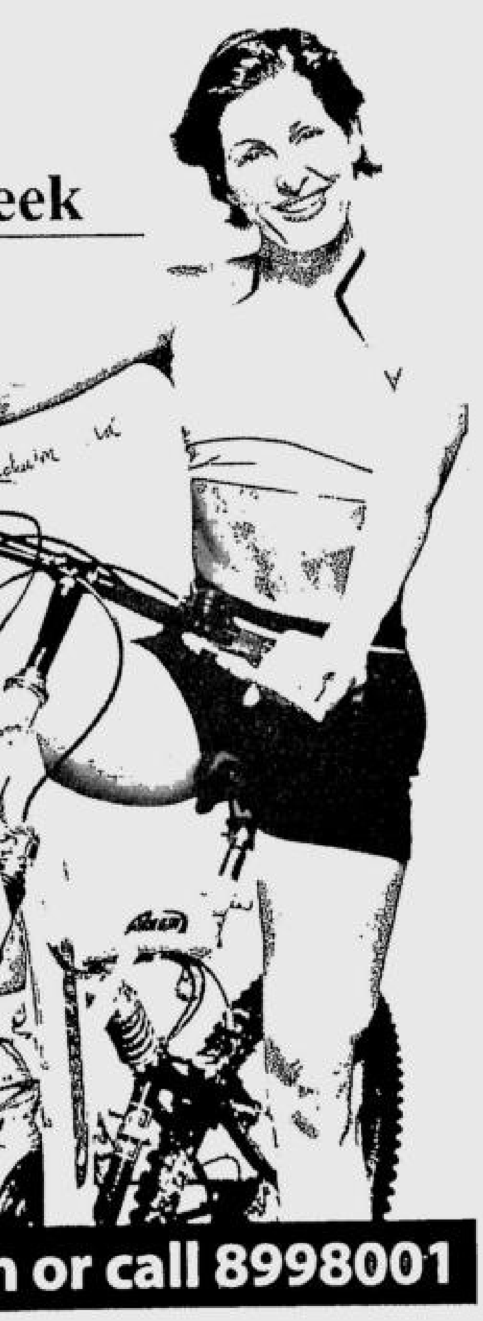
Brand	Capacity	Package Cost*
Samsung	3/4 HP	P 24,000
	1.0 HP	26,000
Mitsubishi	1.0 HP	P 30,000
	1.5 HP	33,000
	2.0 HP	42,000
	2.5 HP	46,000
Carrier	1.0 HP	P 29,500
	1.5 HP	32,500
	2.0 HP	41,000
	2.5 HP	46,000
Koppel	1.0 HP	P 28,500
	1.5 HP	31,500
	2.0 HP	40,000
	2.5 HP	43,500
Fedders	1.0 HP	P 29,500
	1.5 HP	32,500
	2.0 HP	41,000
	2.5 HP	44,500

* Note: Includes cost of unit plus standard installation and more.

VISIT or CALL:

TOTAL
AirconCenter, Inc.
THE SPLIT AIRCON SPECIALIST

Alabang-Zapote Road
(In front of Honda Cars Alabang)
850-9641 • 850-9679
807-4957



Join Us
in a celebration of life and health, at the

Blue Cross Health Week
"Be Healthy, Be free!"

ealth awareness, free blood pressure
fun games and prizes

with the special appearance of
Ms Jackie Lou Blanco

September 5 to 11, 2002
Blue Cross Health Booth,
Ground Floor, Building B
SM Megamall

BLUE CROSS
INSURANCE, INC.

- Medical Insurance
- Travelsafe Insurance
- Healthcare

Visit www.bluecross.com.ph or call 8998001

Witness
a special week that marks three Blue Cross Milestones:

- Blue Cross Celebrity Endorser
- Blue Cross Health Reference Manual
- The New Blue Cross Healthcare Product

Healthline
by BLUE CROSS

Camps cleaned for show

From page A1

The Philippine team ended yesterday its two-day, fact-finding mission after visiting three main detention centers in Menggatal in Kota Kinabalu, Rumah Merah in Sandakan and in Tawau in Sabah.

At least 536 undocumented Filipinos are still locked up in detention centers around Malaysia.

In Tawau, Jaafar promised the Filipinos of their travel back home soon.

"You will all be going home soon, just wait a little more. We're just fixing something," he said. "Many more are coming. We'll have to wait for them."

In Rumah Merah, the Philippine team was given a 20-minute briefing on the deportation process and the new immigration law before entering the detention compound. Reporters were not allowed to get near the entrance until after the briefing.

The group met with the Filipinos only for a few minutes as it still had to catch the C-130 flight for Kota Kinabalu.

Restricted

Interviews were also restricted as guards and police escorts closely monitored the team and members of the media. "We really need to spend more time with them (the detainees)," a member of the team said.

Most of the Filipinos begged Jaafar to get them out of the detention camps and send them back home.

"We are given food only once a day. Sometimes the food is stale. The camp became clean when the delegation came," said a detainee from Bongao.

Like the Filipino detainees all over Malaysia, the ones in Menggatal wanted to go home.

"*Gusto lang namin umuwi na* (We want to leave)," a detainee said.

Sidin Abdul Karim, head of the Preservation and Deportation ACP (Assistant Principal Director), explained the process of deporting illegal aliens in Malaysia.

"We deport any illegal from Malaysia. They are being rounded up by the authorities concerned, and then they will be screened in the screening center. Those who do not have proper documents will be sent to the detention centers," he said.

"According to the law, those without documents will definitely be classified under Section 34 (of the new immigration law). Meaning this will be outright deportation.

"Those with questionable documents will be put under Section 51, which means they will be reinvestigated.

"If authorities can certify that the documents are authentic, then we release them. Those found to be (carrying fake documents) will be subjected to the process of deportation," Sidin said.

But this was before the implementation of the new Amended Malaysian Act. Under the new law, if arrested, undocumented migrants will be charged in court. Then they will be deported after an investigation, according to Sidin. He said the punishment would be meted out by the court of law.

Six months

The amended immigration law includes six months of detention and caning.

Asked why Filipinos were being held this long, he said the Philippine government should answer the question. "They require travel documents and passports, and there have been a lot of delays in processing (the documents)," he said.

"We don't like to detain them further because we incur a lot of expenses (on food, medicines, and transportation)," he added.

In the House of Representatives in Manila, Assistant Foreign Secretary Antonio Rodriguez said 400,000 "deportable" Filipinos were facing "harsher deportation" in the coming months. Only 84,000 so far have been known to have left Malaysia.

In Sabah alone, Rodriguez said there were 200,000 undocumented Filipinos, including 65,000 refugees who fled to Malaysia because of martial law. They are living in 10 refugee camps in Malaysia.

He noted that Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes had described the recent mass deportations as "the easy part."

The hard part is when the illegal migrants are arrested under the stricter immigration law. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Juliet Javellana***

Sex abuse victim found in Sabah camp

From page A1

only as Tsina, one of some 500 Filipinos who arrived in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, Tuesday from Sandakan on a Philippine Coast Guard ship.

Ople summoned Malaysian Ambassador Noor Taufik Mohammad yesterday to personally hand over the President's letter to the Malaysian leader.

Aside from the letter, Ople also handed Taufik a second note verbale—a diplomatic protest—over the alleged abuse.

"The Philippine government condemns in the strongest terms this outrage and urgently requests the government of Malaysia to conduct a swift and thorough investigation of the report, leading to the prosecution and trial of those found responsible," the note said.

"This calls to question Malaysian adherence to the United Nations conventions on human rights, especially those of women and children, and may constitute an act of aggression against civilization itself," the protest letter read.

At a news conference following his meeting with Taufik, Ople said "the Malaysian ambassador, being the civilized person that he is, committed that he would immediately transmit the two documents to (his government). I take this to mean tonight."

Strip tease

At a detention cell in Tawau, a Filipino mother of two, said "most sexually abused Filipinas have turned crazy," pointing to fellow detainee Michelle Lim Sakaluran.

Sakaluran, 24, showed the characteristics of a mentally disturbed person, while talking to members of the Philippine fact-finding team and Filipino reporters.

She performed something short of a strip tease in front of everyone. Most of the detainees believed that she used to work as a bar girl in a Malaysian nightclub.

Sakaluran first came to Malaysia on Nov. 15, 2001, expecting to find her mother in Sandakan.

Sakaluran learned her mother, Edna Lim, had been living in with a certain Abdulharik Jalumin in Sandakan. When a certain Margie Chiong recruited her to work in Malaysia, she agreed, hoping to find her mother.

Chiong was said to be an illegal recruiter from Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, and married to an Indonesian who settled in Malaysia.

The recruiter promised Sakaluran and other Filipino women a tour of Malaysia, and assuring them of high-paying jobs. But Sakaluran ended up being sold to a bar owner. She was not paid for her services. Worse she only got to eat once a day.

Day off

The INQUIRER tried on Tuesday to reach a certain Private Azri at the Tawau police jail to get his side about the report that he and his men turned Filipino Christian women into sex slaves in exchange for food and other comforts.

However, the officer on duty, a female, said there was an Azri at the police jail, "but no private, only Azri. And it is his day off today."

Asked about the alleged sexual abuse, Philippine Second Consul Giovanni Palec said he had not seen a two-story building where the abuse supposedly happened.

Several Filipino repatriates now temporarily seeking shelter in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, claimed that Malaysian police brought two Filipinas in a room "upstairs" where they were allegedly abused.

The two women, the INQUIRER learned, had already left Bongao and had returned to their original places of origin.

A Filipino visiting the Tawau detention cell said those who were allegedly sexually abused could be women who used to work in bars.

"Most of them lost their minds. They were not being paid and were deprived of food," said the Filipino, who asked not to be named.

"Illegal recruiters take young girls in from Zamboanga, Sulu, and the surrounding Philippine provinces, promising them better life in Malaysia. But they end up as prostitutes or sex slaves," he said.

Some members of Congress and military officials are involved in the recruitment of Filipino women who ended up in sex slavery rings in Kota Kinabalu, according to a Filipino Catholic bishop.

Bishop Ramon Arguelles said the white slavery operations were contributing to the loss of respect by Malaysians for Filipino women, specially the non-Muslims.

"They see Christian women as being fit only for sexual abuse," he said, adding that Muslim women are not subjected to the same kind of treatment because the Koran sets heavy penalties for the rape of Muslims.

Arguelles, chair of the Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI), earlier said that the detained Filipino Christian women whom Malaysian policemen in Tawau had turned into sex slaves could be victims of white slavery syndicates operating in Kota Kinabalu, Davao, Zamboanga City and Luzon.

In one case monitored by the ECMI, some 60 women from Bulacan were duped into thinking that they were going to be sent to South Korea, but ended up as sex workers in Kota Kinabalu.

Pressed to name the legislators and military officials, Arguelles demurred.

He said the officials were making use of their relatives to front for them in the operation of illegal recruitment firms, including those that send women to work as prostitutes in Malaysia.

The bishop said government agencies were aware of the problems, but were not working hard to stop the malpractice. "Now we are reaping the whirlwind," he said.

Mahathir: Why me?

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad felt bad that Malaysia was portrayed in a bad light in the Philippines after the maltreatment of tens of thousands of Filipino workers in Sabah, according to presidential adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales met with Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday afternoon for about half an hour.

He delivered a letter from President Macapagal.

"He said he felt bad that all kinds of bad things have been said against Malaysia. He said we could send an investigating team anytime to look at the actual situation," Gonzales said on dzMM yesterday morning.

In the House of Representatives, Assistant Secretary Antonio Rodriguez of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Office of Asean and Pacific Affairs confirmed reports that some Filipino women detainees were sexually abused in Malaysia.

"We don't have any reason to doubt the statements of our countrymen," Rodriguez said when asked by House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla if the DFA believed and validated reports about the rape of the Filipino women by Malaysian police.

But he said the consular team and the Commission on Human Rights were gathering affidavits of the victims for "possible action" against their Malaysian abusers.

He said the fact-finding team led by ex-Congressman Nur Jaafar was explicitly ordered by the President to look into complaints of sexual abuse and deaths arising from the mass roundup and deportation of illegal Filipino migrants to Malaysia.

Rodriguez said sexual abuse no doubt happened "given the conditions in detention centers and the attitude of Malaysians towards Filipinos."

"They don't like Filipinos," he said.

At the DFA, Ople said his office reminded Taufik of the first note verbale the Philippines filed last week.

"(DFA) Undersecretary (Lauro) Baja reminded him that they have yet to respond to the first note verbale. (Taufik) said that the Malaysian Cabinet already met (on Wednesday) on how they would respond to the (protest)," Ople said.

Ople said that the Philippine delegation to Sabah was looking into pieces of evidence that would prove allegations of sexual and physical abuse. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Juliet L. Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan***

Critics see politics in Defensor appointment

From page A1

tion of anonymity aired similar warnings. Still others sent text messages lamenting the "politics" that would supposedly only encourage dissent within the AFP.

Defensor, who is to retire on Sept. 12 when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56, will serve as AFP chief of staff for two months and six days starting on Sept. 10 when the incumbent, Gen. Roy Cimatu, bows out of military service.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at yesterday's briefing that the President gave premium to seniority in naming Defensor as AFP chief of staff.

Defensor is the most senior of the six three-star generals from among whom Ms Macapagal made her choice. The other five are Lieutenant Generals Dionisio Santiago, Army chief; Narciso Abaya; Gregorio Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff; Ernesto Carolina of the AFP Southern Command; and Navy Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco.

"The President said all three-star generals were good, and with their qualifications almost about equal, she went for seniority," Bunye said.

He denied the persistent speculation that Malacañang went for Defensor because it wanted to win over his sister, and said his appointment had "nothing to do with his relationship" with the former senator.

Asked whether all the senior generals would be eventually accommodated as AFP chiefs of staff, Bunye said: "Let's see."

"I think we have to deal on a case-to-case basis," he added, but stressed that the appointment of the AFP chief of staff was the prerogative of the President as the AFP Commander in Chief.

Angels' prayer

In a statement, Defensor said he got the post because his "angels must have chorused a prayer."

PRESCIENT lineup of Generals Defensor, Abaya and Camiling waiting for President Macapagal at the Naia in May.

FILE PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

EDWIN BACASMAS

LT. GEN. Dionisio Santiago: Will the game of musical chairs stop where he is at?

He said that the other contenders for the post were "all good," and that "they will have their moment of truth."

"This is my own moment in time and I thank God for this," he added. "I thank President Macapagal for her trust."

In its own statement, the Air Force said Defensor's appointment finally ended "one of the most breathtaking, if bizarre, episodes of AFP chief hunting."

It added: "In the shot and shell of PR exchanges, it looked like (Cimatu's) term would get extended even as (Santiago) moved in to spring a surprise, (Abaya) maneuvered and projected himself as the best candidate, and (Camiling) got the backing of Muslim leaders in the South.

"But in the end, the unexpected happened and the top post went to the chief from the Air Force."

Maj. Restituto Padilla, chief of the Air Force's public information office, hailed the "courage of conviction" of the President and said she made the "right choice."

He described Defensor as "the right man for the job, being the most qualified, credible and morally upright."

Defensor is a 1969 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. In 1974, he earned two Gold Cross medals, the highest Air Force combat award at that time, within 24 hours in Jolo.

He has about 40 awards and decorations that include three Distinguished Service Stars and three Gold Crosses.

But a leader of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan warned that Defensor's appointment could lead to demoralization in the organization.

"The ordinary soldier may not be affected, but the officers will be," he said. "What is worse is if the RAM members who are in active service react to it."

Politics

Senators had a mouthful to say on Defensor's appointment.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, said that while Defensor was qualified for the post of AFP chief of staff, the practice of extending the term of a retiring military officer but not allowing him to complete a three-year term as allowed by law was not good for the military organization.

"The sooner the President invokes some frame of reference, (the sooner) will the situation (become) more harmonized and stable," Magsaysay said. "Long term, lesser politics. We have too much politics going on, and we have to purge the military of politics."

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he would recommend to Ms Macapagal that Defensor's successor complete a two- or three-year term to ensure continuity of programs.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the President should stop making an "appointment by installment" just to make all the officers happy.

"It is wreaking havoc on seniority and on the career path of all the officers. And we better put a stop to this," he said.

Angara recalled that when then President Corazon Aquino appointed Rodolfo Biazon as AFP chief of staff, he had only three months before retirement.

"When Cory offered to extend his term, (now Senator Biazon) said, 'No, Ma'am, because that will not be good for military discipline and morale," Angara said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said that while there was no legal impediment to appoint a retiring officer to the top military post, this would not serve the military well.

Lacson also said that while Defensor was a good choice, he should be allowed to complete three years to do something significant in the AFP.

"If you will extend his term for only one month, then he will only make a courtesy call on his counterparts in Asean, come back here, and go back there again to make an exit call," Lacson said.

But Bunye said that the President had made the proper consultations regarding Defensor's appointment, and that there should be no cause for worry about demoralization in the military.

At a luncheon with reporters last Aug. 28, the President said: "(Appointing the AFP chief of staff) is a total prerogative of the Commander in Chief, and I will repeat, I can even appoint a colonel if I want (to)."

End game

The man on the way out intends to go in style.

Cimatu yesterday launched his last campaign to stamp out problems involving kidnapping and the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, where suspected bandit groups are holding several hostages.

Dubbed Campaign Plan "End Game," the operation is being personally supervised by Cimatu in Sulu and will employ a similar strategy earlier used in Basilan.

But this time, there will be no US troops involved.

"They will duplicate what happened in Basilan minus the American force . . . It will be an all-Filipino effort in trying to arrest the problem in three to six months," said military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion.

According to Purificacion, the operation will entail close collaboration between the military and civilian agencies to address not only the armed groups but also the socioeconomic problems in the area.

He said that it would include the implementation of livelihood projects, and that local leaders would actively urge the bandits to surrender their firearms.

Purificacion downplayed fears that the incoming AFP chief of staff might junk the campaign.

He said there might be changes in force complements, but not in the overall strategy. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

They gave up rich careers to help poor

From page A1

convenienced by the special treatment.

"It was a big relief to come out of that system which is oppressive in nature," the soft-spoken Pandey said in an interview at the Ramon Magsaysay Center in Manila.

"I was not comfortable enjoying the privileges of a class that could not be extended to everybody. I was strongly disturbed by the oppression," he added, citing the conditions of the poor that he witnessed in his youth.

Teaching

While in postgraduate studies in the United States, Pandey and his US-educated Indian friends decided to do something for their country's poorest, the children of the untouchables who had no access to education.

They set up the Asha for Education, a school that espouses social justice and the philosophy of India's greatest activist Mohandas Gandhi, as well as practical lessons in arts and crafts to help its graduates find employment.

Asha, which is registered as a nongovernment organization, now has 35 chapters in India and the United States. US-based Indians and sympathetic foreigners help support its chapters in India through donations or volunteer teaching.

"The strength I get from the love and companionship of the poor is enough privilege. It's the real fulfillment in my life," Pandey said.

He took note of the drive among today's youth to pursue studies, as he did, and build successful careers, but pointed out that true and deep happiness came from achieving something bigger than personal dreams.

Pandey was a student leader at the Benares Hindu University in Varanasi before he left for the United States, disillusioned by the politics in India.

He acquired a master's degree in English at the Syracuse University in New York in 1988 and went on to complete a doctorate in control theory at the University of California in Berkeley in 1992.

Newspapering

Koirala, recipient of the RM Award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, dropped all prospects of a lucrative job after his engineering course at the Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu to become a newspaperman.

In 1965, he joined the Rising Nepal, a government publication, and was immediately appointed chief reporter despite his lack of experience because he could speak and write in English, which few Nepalese could do then.

Koirala admitted to practicing heavy self-censorship during his stint with the Rising Nepal and, later, with the Gorakhapatra, another state-owned organ, where he said he "could not do journalism in the real sense of the word."

In 1984, Koirala left the Gorakhapatra and established the Nepal Press Institute (NPI). His aim was to orient reporters in the ways of the free press even at a time of repression and to raise the professional standards and ethics of journalists in his country.

When democracy was restored in Nepal in 1990, Koirala and his colleagues worked to include in its Constitution clauses providing for the full freedom of expression, and guarantees that the government would abide these.

"There is no journalism that's too free," he said. "You may go beyond the limits of freedom, but eventually, things always begin to stabilize."

But in a country where only one in 100 people receives newspapers and less than half of the population can read, Koirala had to wrestle with the dilemma of making journalism relevant to the people of the mountains, where thousands of villages are accessible only by footpaths.

It was these barriers that paved the way for the Barefoot Journalist's training program, which Koirala and his friends spearheaded.

They trained housewives, teachers and educated youth to write articles on the villages' concerns. These stories were edited and subsequently sent to newspapers in the locality.

In many communities, Koirala set up wall newspapers, billboard-like bulletins that were posted everywhere for public information.

"It's important in a country like Nepal where there is a large illiterate population, massive poverty, poor infrastructure and difficult geography," Koirala said, adding:

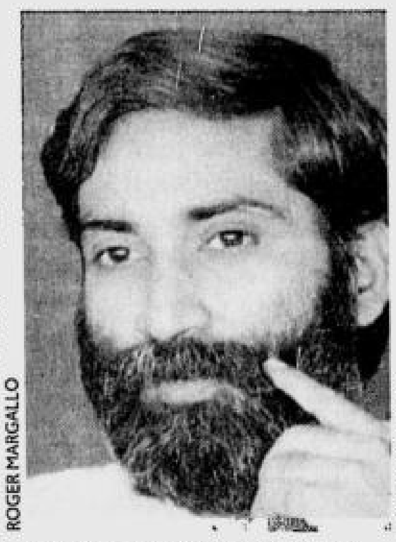
"There are so many languages, and the diversity is so great that the media have to be in the hands of the people, in the language of the people, and carrying information relevant to the lives of the people."

Broadcasting

Now a consultant of the Media Services in Nepal and secretary general of the NPI, Koirala is busy promoting locally owned and operated radios in the rural areas.

The radio transcends literacy and is easier to maintain than newspapers because they require cheaper resources, he noted.

The newspaperman of 37 years is now directing rural folk toward broadcasting.


ROGER MARGALLO

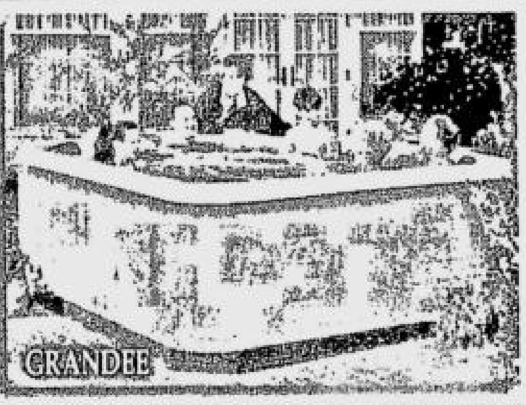
SANDEEP PANDEY, only 37 but a Maysaysay awardee for emergent leadership as recognition of his social activism rooted in the Gandhian philosophy.

ROGER MARGALLO

BHARAT KOIRALA, Maysaysay awardee for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, trained barefoot journalists to reach people from the lowlands to the mountains of Nepal.

HotSpring® Portable Spas
Built for a lifetime of relaxation.℠

8 or 2



Hotspring Spas, well known for the extra ordinary therapeutic experience it provides is available in sizes that best suit your company.
Grandee, the mother of all spas delivers enormous relaxation for eight, while its smaller prodigy, the Solana provides comfort for two.

Visit Josol today and fall in love with the Mother and Child of spas...the essence of luxurious living.

Home of the World's Most Celebrated Brands
JOSOL Home Decor Improvement Center, Inc.
IDC Bldg., E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong Norte, Q.C.
Tel. No.: 637-5871-74 ● 634-2990 ● 631-1807-08
Josol Rockwell 756-5107 / Josol Southmall 800-3191
Josol Pasig 641-9624 / Josol Bacoor (046) 417-7464

"invisible" hearing aid from Sountex

Do you think hearing aids are *embarrassing?*

Contrary to perception, hearing aids today are no longer bulky in design. In fact, they are so small they can be worn almost invisibly, yet powerful enough to bring crystal clear sound quality back into your life.

The fully digital hearing aid, Signia from Siemens, is so intelligent it automatically enhances speech and reduces background noise.

If you think you or a family member may have a hearing problem, call us now for a "No obligation" hearing test. At Sountex™ we use state of the art Siemens UNITY test equipment to measure any level of hearing loss precisely. If you need a hearing aid, we will recommend one that is most suitable for your hearing loss and lifestyle.

CALL FOR A FREE HEARING TEST TODAY!
Robinsons Ortigas: 635-9033
Makati: 867-1916

SOUNtex
THE HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

PCS Building,992 EDSA, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 927-4973/928-1083/929-4047/927-4974
Fax No. 929-2297 E-mail: pcs@pcs.org.ph
Website: http//www.pcs@pcs.org.ph

"A specialty division of the Philippine Medical Association"

The **Philippine College of Surgeons (PCS)**
The Umbrella Organization of All Surgical Specialties in the Philippines

Do Hereby State Its Official Position
On the Proposed House Bill 4955, otherwise known as
The Medical Malpractice Bill

As Doctors and Surgeons, we are sworn to provide and promote the highest standards of the Art and Science of Medicine and Surgery with Preservation of the Health of the Filipino people as our primary Purpose.

We believe that the welfare of the patient is our first and foremost mission. We uphold the relationship between a surgeon and his patient as a sacred contract and we believe trust between them is vital to healing.

We subscribe to the patient's right to affordable and quality health care, scientific evidences relevant to diagnosis and treatment are constantly changing.

Yet we realize that Medicine Is Not an Exact Science and no human is perfect, hence we may err even with a pure intention to render the best for our patients.

The PCS is ever vigilant to safeguard the highest standards of surgical practice in our land. We coordinate with medical schools and hospitals to provide proper surgical education, supervise and accredit training programs in surgery. Our independent certifying arm, the Philippine Board of Surgery, conducts written and oral specialty certifying examinations for diplomates to ensure strict compliance to these standards.

The PCS admits its members through careful, meticulous screening and mandates the same to pursue a continuing medical education to continually update themselves about the latest in the craft of surgery. Regular activities are required to achieve these objectives and include weekly preoperative and postoperative conferences, morbidity and mortality conferences, tumor boards meetings, journal club sessions and literature reviews conducted in all training programs and hospitals.

Erring surgeons are a reality. Redress to grievances may be coursed through our courts of law as negligent acts of doctors and professionals are covered by the Revised Penal Code. They can also be coursed to the Professional Regulations Commission, the Philippine Medical Association and respective hospital Ethics Review Board. For our part, the PCS entertains all complaints against our Fellows and we level sanctions whenever they are due.

However, malpractice cases are few and far in between compared to the millions of patients, who are benefited and healed, many of whom are charity cases, who are served, healed, comforted and brought out of harm's way.

House Bill 4955, no matter how commendable its intentions are, categorizes even the smallest mistakes of medical practitioners as crimes punishable with the severest penalties reserved for hardened criminals as those who commit treason, frustrated homicide with intent to kill and direct assault with serious physical injuries.

Enactment of HB 4955 will force doctors to practice defensive medicine and skyrocket the cost of medical care. In a country where 40% of our countrymen wallow in poverty, the availability then of affordable and adequate medical attention becomes increasingly remote. Surgeons will be easily vulnerable to harassment and extortion and may shy away from difficult cases especially if such are charity cases. A feeling of mistrust and suspicion will pervade each physician-patient relationship.

Because the provisions of HB 4955 debases the basic principles and convictions of our commitment to the welfare of the Filipino people whom we have sworn to serve with all sincerity and purity of intention, the Philippine College of Surgeons hereby **DECLARES THAT HB 4955 IS INIMICAL TO THE DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE QUALITY HEALTH CARE AND PHYSICIAN-PATIENT BOND AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE PASSED INTO LAW.**

US OPEN SURPRISE

Sampras trips Haas, enters q'finals

By Jim Slater

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras says he still has what it takes to win a Grand Slam tennis title and none of the game's young stars vying for victory at the US Open have been able to prove him wrong so far.

Four-time US champion Sampras outlasted third seed Tommy Haas of Germany 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5 here Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals of the year's final major championship.

"The days of me dominating are over, but I still feel like I have a major in me. I'm going to give it my best shot," Sampras said.

The 31-year-old American has not won a title since capturing his record-setting 13th career Slam crown in 2000 at Wimbledon. But his deadly serve and solid volleys were more than enough to take out Haas on less than a day's rest.

"It took stamina," Sampras said. "I was feeling it at the end. This is the US Open. You dig deep. You do whatever you can to win.

"I played well. It was a good win to get through that in four." Next in Sampras' path is Andy Roddick, the hard-serving 20-year-old American who idolized Sampras since boyhood. Roddick rallied to beat Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

"I'm excited. That's what you play for, matches like that," Roddick said. "It will be a dream come true for me." "I hope it's a nightmare for him and a dream for me," Sampras said.

Thursday's other quarterfinal will match two unlikely contenders–Grand Slam quarterfinal debutante Fernando Gonzalez of Chile and Dutchman Sjeng Schalken, who reached his first Slam quarterfinal in 29 tries at Wimbledon.

Schalken, seeded 24th, ousted Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4) while Gonzalez, seeded 28th, dispatched France's Arnaud Clement 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Sampras fired 27 aces and 82 winners to capture his 200th Grand Slam match, the third-most all time, and sustain his hopes of a third consecutive trip to the Flushing Meadows final.

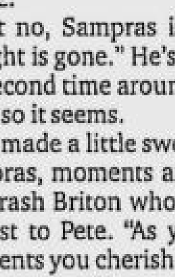
"I played pretty well. I got my game going at a pretty high level," Sampras said. "I kind of clicked. It was a good win. Any time you can serve 130 (mph) on the line, you are going to be a threat.

Haas had suffered from forearm tendinitis the past two weeks but said he felt no pain during the match. "It was all right," Haas said.

Haas netted a backhand to give Sampras a break to 6-5 in the first set and Sampras held at love with a forehand winner to win the set. *AFP*

The Past

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

PETE Sampras personifies man's inherent will to survive, to dream on. He is now your Don Quixote of sports: Battling the windmills.

And so far, he's winning.

Yesterday, Sampras defeated Tommy Haas, 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5. It came after everybody thought Pete's marathon win over Greg Rusedski the night before signalled the end of his chase for more glory.

With a record 13 Grand Slam wins to Sampras' name, why still the need for him to plod on?

Pass the cure for overstaying athletes, please.

But no, Sampras isn't singing "When the twilight is gone." He's singing "Love's sweeter the second time around."

Or so it seems.

"It made a little sweeter with the win," said Sampras, moments after defeating Rusedski, the brash Briton who was a poor sport when he lost to Pete. "As you get older, those are moments you cherish a little more."

Sampras will now march into the quarterfinals. He will be gawked at more as a creature of laboratory than as a magnificent specimen looking fit to outfox Father Time.

At 31, Sampras is an old dog for tennis. Tennis, in case you've forgotten, makes you run, in spurts, most of the time.

At 31, Sampras will essay the role of The Past when he meets Andy Roddick. Roddick, the 20-year-old with the rocket serve, is your "back to the future" type.

"He's definitely the future," said Sampras of Roddick, who advanced by beating Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. "I need to really play hard against him. But I assure you I still got the game."

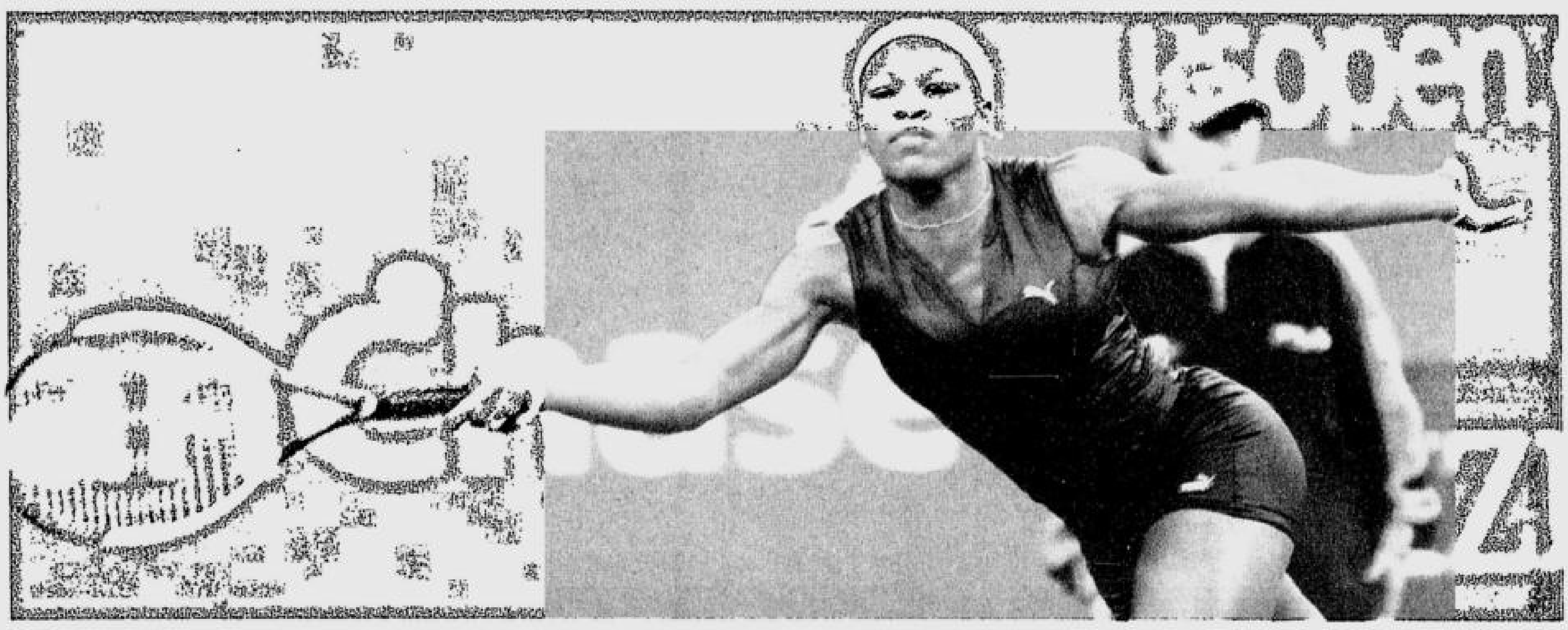
Said game has made him a four-time US Open champion in the 14 years that he's been competing in America's version of the Wimbledon. As an 18-year-old seeing his first US Open in 1988, Sampras made an impact with his serve and volley game. His 27 aces yesterday stunned even himself.

Rusedski, who said he lost to a slower Sampras and "he would lose to Haas tomorrow night," owes Sampras an apology.

But who needs apologies?

"I can't waste my energy on stuff like that," said Sampras of Rusedski's swipe. "I don't really worry about what he says."

God ignores asides.



WILLIAMS stretches for a return to Daniela Hantuchova of the Czech Republic at the US Open. Williams won, 6-2, 6-2. AFP

SAMPRAS (left) extracts another epic win as Monica Seles struggles past Martina Hingis, 6-4, 6-2. AFP

All-Williams final looms again

By Howard Fendrich
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK—Sisters Serena and Venus Williams moved closer to another all-Williams final, claiming victories Tuesday at the US Open.

NEW YORK—Soul singer Aretha Franklin will sing "America" prior to Saturday's US Open women's singles final, the United States Tennis Association said on Tuesday.

Serena reached the semifinals by dominating Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia 6-2, 6-2. Venus had plenty of problems against fellow American Chanda Rubin before emerging with a 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 victory to reach the quarterfinals for the 18th time in 20 Grand Slam events.

There will be a marquee matchup in the men's quarterfinals, with Pete Sampras facing fellow American Andy Roddick. Four-time champion Sampras won Tuesday night's last match when German No. 3 Tommy Haas double faulted on the final point. Roddick beat Juan Ignacio Chela in four sets.

Top-seeded Serena, the 1999 Open champion, had 29 winners to six for the 11th-seeded Hantuchova, and whipped 12 aces at up to 185 kph (115 mph).

When Hantuchova arrived at the National Tennis Center hours before the match, she was wearing heavy wrapping on her right thumb, injured Sunday night during her fourth-round match against Justine Henin of Belgium.

Serena, who is bidding to become the first woman since Steffi Graf to win three straight majors, next faces Lindsay Davenport, a hard hitter many think has the best chance of coming between the Williams sisters and a longer string of major titles. *AP*

Serena mum on her outfit vs Davenport

NEW YORK—Top seed Serena Williams is staying tight-lipped over which controversial outfit she is planning to wear for her US Open semifinal against Lindsay Davenport on Thursday.

The Wimbledon and French Open champion has wowed fans at Flushing Meadows this year with two outlandish combinations–a skin-tight, black, short-legged lycra cat-suit and a shocking pink ensemble she calls "strawberry ice." On Tuesday she was back in black for her 6-2 6-2 victory over Daniela Hantuchova, but won't say which it will be for the Davenport clash.

"Today I was running fast and jumping high... like a cat," she grinned.

"That was good.

"But I don't know... maybe on Thursday I will be a Pink Panther." *Reuters*

Students tilt Sept. 7

THE 2002 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships will be jointly hosted by the NFA Tennis Club in Batangas City and De La Salle-Lipa starting Sept. 7-9.

Metro Manila schools are expected to vie for the championship trophies in the collegiate men's and women's and high school boys' and girls' team events.

Deadline for registration is set at 8 a.m. on Saturday at the De La Salle-Lipa hardcourts with the draw and tournament proper to follow immediately.

Philta Classic 5

THE COUNTRY'S leading junior players are invited to join the Philta Classic 5, a group 2 tournament slated Sept. 7-8 and Sept. 13-15 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Registration is ongoing at the Philta office (tel. 525-6434) from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Entry fee is P200. Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.

Magic wedge turns life around for Dottie

By Jong Arcano

THE FUTURE STARS

DOTTIE Ardina is only 8 years old. But already, she has rubbed elbows with the President of the republic.

Not surprising, though.

Dottie is presently the best 8-year-old girl golfer on this planet. That credential set her up for the "dream" three-hole joust with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Dottie, who made stray chickens her moving target while hitting range balls in a makeshift driving range in Laguna, is enjoying her newfound fame. And for the past two months or so, her classmates at the Child Jesus Academy in Cabuyao are getting used to seeing her chair empty.

Little Dottie is on a victory march, that's why. Part of the perks she got for winning both the Junior World golf championship in San Diego, California and the US Kids World Championship in Williamsburg, Virginia.

She's been very busy granting media interviews and collecting educational grants, special gifts and many tokens for a job well done. She's also been featured on television shows and her every move, every special appearance are being closely monitored by media.

Endorsements from at least three major companies have also been dangled but her father isn't just about to bite the bait, lest the amateur status of Dottie get compromised.

The hectic schedule is slowly taking its toll on Dottie's health and the elder Ardina is hoping she finally gets the time to rest.

"Ganito pala ito, hindi na kami tumigil sa kalalakad, sa pakikipagusap sa mga tao. Pagod na pagod na daw si Dottie," said Ed.

And to think that Dottie remained a virtual nobody even before she and her parents, range keeper Ed and Gina, boarded the Philippine Airlines jet that brought her to America in July for the two major competitions she played in —and won.

The trip to the US was, of course, sponsored, her prize for ending up unbeaten in all the six events she had played in.

Amalia Montecillo, the founder of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines which nurtured the careers of all Filipino world jungolf champions, sees a bright future for Dottie.

"I heard that she's very focused when she trains and she wants to challenge everybody she meets on the practice greens, pros included, to either a pitching or chipping game," Montecillo said. "Her passion for the game is something else."

Her golf swing is, indeed, something and the pros who often play with her claim her touch with the pitching wedge is like weaving the magic wand.

The magic wedge this early has turned the world around for the Ardinas.

When they usually drove to tournament venues with their rickety car, the Ardinas now enjoy the luxury of a newer model–no longer hesistant to drive through for her favorite McDo chicken meal.

There's also enough in the bank to support his studies and training.

"Catsup at fried chicken na siguro ang kakainin ng anak ko mula ngayon. Kasi dati catsup lang," joked her father.

'Sore eyes' sends Asiad bets home

SEOUL, South Korea—A highly contagious eye disease affecting tens of thousands of South Koreans has spread to the country's Asian Games training camp, forcing key athletes to leave for treatment, doctors said Wednesday.

The outbreak of conjunctivitis or pink eye, known here as "Apollo eye disease," has sent 21 athletes home so far, triggering a massive sanitation operation at the camp in Seoul, camp doctors said.

The camp has 350 athletes taking part in 15 events, or 45 percent of South Korea's squad for the Asiad which runs from Sept. 27 to Oct. 14.

"Time is running short," said the chief team doctor, who urged the Asian Games organizing committee to send out a health alert to all 42 countries participating in the Games in Busan, the southern port city already affected by the epidemic.

"So far 21 players have been infected and sent home. We are on high alert to prevent the spread of Apollo," the doctor said, insisting on anonymity.

"The disease is not fatal but seriously affects their training schedule because those infected must be insulated for at least two weeks for treatment," he said.

Some .170,000 children, including 10,000 in Seoul have, been infected with the disease, forcing the closure of some 70 schools nationwide.

Health officials said the outbreak was accelerated by Typhoon Rusa, which plowed across South Korea Saturday, causing worsening sanitary conditions. *AFP*

Paul Pierce (center) of the United States shoots between Kirk Penney (left) and Mark Dickel of New Zealand during the FIBA World Basketball Championships. The US won, 110-62.

AFP

US quintet speeds to 5th victory

Americans vs Argentinians in battle of unbeaten teams

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana —The United States continued its march toward the final at the 2002 World Basketball Championships on Tuesday, downing New Zealand, 110-62, for its fifth straight victory.

The heavily favored Americans (5-0) trailed 25-22 after one quarter of play and led by just six points at the half, due primarily to their 38 percent shooting from the floor in the first two quarters.

But as they have done so often when pressed at this event, the Americans responded in the second half to pull away for another easy victory over New Zealand (2-3).

The US out-scored the Kiwis, 27-10, in the third quarter and continued to pile on the points, despite the fact that coach George Karl went to his bench for most of the second half.

In the last four games the US had led by an average of just 4.5 points at the half, but has outscored its opposition by 22.3 points in the second half in those games.

Other results: Russia d China, 95-68; Argentina d Germany, 86-77; Puerto Rico d Spain, 73-65; Turkey d Angola, 86-66; Yugoslavia d Brazil, 90-69; Canada d Venezuela, 98-97, Algeria d Lebanon, 100-70.

Paul Pierce and Michael Finley both had 20 points to pace the US attack.

Shawn Marion had 16 points off the bench, while Ben Wallace pulled down 13 rebounds and had five points.

Kirk Penney had 16 points for New Zealand, while Pero Cameron added 13 points.

In the other group F game played on Tuesday, Russia (2-3) kept its medal hopes alive with a crucial—and easy—95-68 win over China (1-4).

GAMES TODAY
USA vs Argentina
(RPN/Solar 7-9 p.m.)
New Zealand vs China
(Solar 1-3 p.m./9-11 p.m.)

Matalote, Cunanan win

VETERAN duckpin bowlers Jun Matalote and Laarni Cunanan flashed their old deadly form to crush their respective rivals and bag the 28th National Open men's and ladies' (class A/B) singles title recently at the Puyat Sports Center in Starmall.

Matalote whipped Edwin Cruz, 208-171, while Cunanan beat Me-Anne dela Cruz, 248-201.

Cunanan and Cruz made it to the finals by hurdling Maa Aregla, 107-99, and Gerry Ancheta, 131-100, respectively, in the first up-the-ladder matches.

Philip de Padua and Indang Castillo copped top honors in the men's and ladies' class C singles event, while Ariba-RBA and Pasig Ladies prevailed in the team competition.

De Padua downed Gerry Ancheta, 220-208, after eliminating Rene Glema, 109-100, in the first match. Castillo nosed out Ocampo, 247-245, after Ocampo had nipped Lorenz Hilaus, 97-96.

Ariba-RBA outsteadied Badba-BATS 2, 326-319, in the men's team finals, while the Pasig Ladies trimmed MDBC (BBGS), 304-298.

Rose Layoc and Rene Glema ruled the mixed doubles competition, with Me-Anne dela Cruz/Jimmy Garcera and Geena Gregorio/Winnie Sotto placing second and third, respectively.

The individual and team top qualifiers were Vic Uy (426) and Imelda Laxamana (385), A/B singles; Alex Pascual (402) and Angie Quijano (383), C singles; Starmall (1090) and BDBA-BATS I (1080), team.

SPORTSWATCH

Santiago sweeps Shell scooter races

CARMONA, Cavite—Ivan Santiago swept both the expert open and 70cc categories, even as Gerry Quinones stretched his winning streak to six in the Honda 50cc class in the seventh leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit. Unable to make any headway in the previous two legs, Santiago rediscovered his winning form to frustrate perennial rivals Benjo Mendoza and Mark Anthony Barcial and emerge as the winningest rider with three victories in the centerpiece expert open category. Mendoza and Barcial have two wins apiece.

Double victories for Leongson, Saulog

SHELL-YAMAHA Racing Team, the winningest team in local motocross history, is expected to add new trophies to its vast collection with the expected double victories for Ernie Leongson and Jovie Saulog this month. Leongson will crown himself as this year's "Rider of the Year" for the second time in eight years following another smashing victory in the sixth leg in Cagayan de Oro City recently. Leongson, known as "Mr. Nice guy" in the motocross circle, has a runaway score of 204 points built on five victories and one runner-up finish in this seven-part series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

'Ratratan' finals set in Mandaluyong

THE EXPLOSIVE "Ratratan 7-Stag Derby," Mandaluyong Coliseum's second blockbuster stagfest for the year, enters its championship round at 7 p.m. tonight. Derby sponsors are Pagcor, Ninja Gamefowl Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc. Seven out of 40 participants scored three victories each in last Tuesday's opening round. They are Boy Primallion and T. Reyes (CJR BPZ Nevada Oct. 1 and 3 UCAP), OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Vincent Oct. 15 and 17), Jimmy Mariquit (5-Stag Sept. 24 Mandaluyong), Benjie Lim (Pasay 4-Stag Oct. 4), Blandy Tolentino (San Pablo Jade), Cesar Tangcad (BM Tangkad) and Muroy Dolorico (Vic Boy). With two points each are the following entries: Winslet, EDR 4-Stag Sept. 13 Pasay, Greenwood, ADS 114, Sto. Cristo, PE Winning Time, Concierto Sa Mandaluyong Sept. 24, Bumble Bee Balbina, Agilawin Uma, San Pablo City and James and Alan 4-Stag Sept. 20 Pasay.

Antonio's Pampanga derby Sept. 20

THE SECOND Annual Sagupaan Complexor 3000 5-Stag Derby, to be promoted by well-known *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, is all set at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City on Sept. 20. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P500,000, plus one imported brood cock for every champion, courtesy of Sagupaan Game Farm. Entry fee is P22,000 and minimum bet is P11,000. "I was inspired by the event's tremendous success last year, and in fact that derby is still Pampanga Coliseum's biggest crowd-drawer to date. That's why I decided to make this stagfest a yearly affair that features Pampanga versus Metro Manila cockers," said Antonio.

RACING TIPS

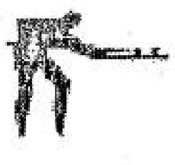
AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Royal Bet 2. Nagnlningning 3. Touch of Luck 4. Roman Dance
Race 2--1. Ginger Spice 3. Assunta de Rio 4. Del Mar 5. My Prayer
Race 3--1. Hitman 2. Witch Craft 3. Search for Gold
Race 4--1. Express Strike 2. Aaron's Hope 3. Sperocosta
Race 5--1. Rainbow Dazzler 2. Richie Rich 3. Hope
Race 6--1. Cool Zam/Rain Check 2. Show Affection 3. Jhelen 4. Like a Prince 5. Ocean Menary
Race 7--1. Reigns Supreme 2. Tower of Power 3. High Typhoon 4. Samahan 5. Alabang Boy 6. Standout
Race 8--1. Time Essential 2. Timeless Beauty 3. Heavy Metal
Race 9--1. Ticket to Fame 2. Fire Mouth 3. Rising Fast 4. Romantic Bay 5. Hong Kong Treasures

Django & Bata: Dream Team for Asian Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BILLIARDS and Snookers Congress of the Philippines president Ernie Fajardo yesterday said that if there's a team worthy of being called the "RP Dream Team" in the Asian Games, it will have to be the pool masters.



Billiards

And he's got some bragging rights under his sleeves—Bata, Django, Corteza, Kiamco and Lining, among others.

Bannered by cue masters who are not only feared in Asia but all over the world, the RP billiards and snookers team is expected to lord it over the competition in Busan, South Korea, later this month.

"Everything is in place already," Fajardo told the INQUIRER. "Our role as the national sports association is to field players who have the strongest chance of winning gold medals.

"I think we have done it already."

Look at the lineup. For 9-ball singles, we'll have Warren Kiamco and Antonio Lining— not yet in the league of Bata and Django but are nevertheless peerless in the Asian level.

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Lee Van Corteza are entered in the 8-ball singles. Reyes will also play in the carom and English Billiards singles along with Reynaldo Grandia. Francisco "Django" Bustamante sees action in 9-ball and 8-ball doubles with Lining.

Also joining the team are Marlon Manalo, James Al Ortega, Bayani Guevarra.

"It's just going to be the breaks which will decide the matches," said Fajardo. "With regard to talent, skill and the ability to handle extreme pressure, we already got it all.

"These people play billiards everyday of their lives and I think we are very capable of winning three gold medals," he added.

Billiards, brand-new addition in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, proved to be the Team Philippines' saving grace that year when it won the country's only gold medal through the 9-ball doubles of Gandy Valle and Romeo Villanueva.

The golds will most likely flow from the 9-ball and 8-ball, singles and doubles competitions, according to Fajardo.

But the country can still pull some surprises in carom, which is played in a pool the size of a regular billiards table only without pocket.

"He (Reyes) actually started in carom and he's the best carom player in the country," said Fajardo of the event where a player only has a cue ball and two other object balls. He has to hit the two balls in a single stroke to earn a point, something that Reyes expertly does even during regular 9-ball games.

"Of course, we can't rule out the breaks of the game just like what happened to Django in Cardiff," said Fajardo. "Otherwise, we have a very strong chance because every one of them can win anytime, any place."

BATA: Almost sure of winning the gold in Busan. Inset is Django Bustamante.

FILE PHOTOS

PEÑALOSA REMATCH

Salud irked over fight postponement

WORLD Boxing Council champion Masamori Tokuyama wants his defense against Filipino Gerry Peñalosa postponed from Nov. 8 to Dec. 23.

Initially, he suggested that it be moved to January 2003.

Rudy Salud, Peñalosa's manager, is worried over the planned postponement. He said it would affect the training of Peñalosa.

"Gerry's peaking could be jeopardized," said Salud.

But Japanese matchmaker Joe Koizumi, who represents the Tokuyama camp, told Salud that Tokuyama "suffered a slight hairline crack on the left hand and was advised by his doctor to take a one month rest."

Salud said Dec. 23 is "more than one month from Nov. 8."

He insisted that the fight be held "end of November."

Salud warned that the postponement might raise speculations the Tokuyama camp is not taking WBC president Jose Sulaiman seriously.

The fight was set last November in Bangkok when Sulaiman, convinced that Tokuyama had head-butted his way to victory over Peñalosa last year in Yokohama, ordered the rematch.

A hairline fracture is "a minor fracture in which the bone fragments remain in alignment, appearing on X-ray film as a fine line." *AS Mendoza*

Benchpress tilt

THE GNC Benchpress Challenge will be held on Sept. 14 at SM Manila beginning at 2 p.m. Male and female contestants are welcome in the event sponsored by Haliya Enterprises, Rita Ritz Bakehouse, Oxyboost and Powerbar So Natural. For details, call 721-1291 to 94.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** • Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

FOUR DIGIT

Luzon 9 6 5 0
(In exact order)
Vis-Min 4 1 9 2

MEGALOTTO 6/45

10 11 22 32 34 38

SUERTRES 9 1 9

FREE CELLPHONES!
Up to Dec. 31, 2002 from
AMA BANK
AMA Rural Bank of Mandaluyong, Inc.
See posters for details
Or call (02) 373-9913; 413-5777; 372-6926; 933-8344; 372-6666

Stags zap Bombers, earn 'twice' edge

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 a.m. (r - 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Air Canada Championship at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: This Week in Baseball at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 12 noon on Star Sports and 1 p.m. on ESPN

Futbol Mundial at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Asian Motorsport Review 2002 at 5:30 p.m. on Star Sports

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
U.S. Pat.
Up to 24" Long
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT!
• RESTORES VISIBILITY 75-80% • STRENGTH 100%
• PAINTLESS DENT REMOVAL • REPAIR LEAKS & DEFOGGER
• CLEANS & SANITIZED CAR A/C IN 45 MINS (U.S.)
• REMOVE WINDSHIELD FINE SCRATCHES, ACID RAINS & SILICON BUILD-UP
• 24K GOLDPLATING OF CAR EMBLEMS W/O DISASSEMBLY
CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST # 40 Kalayaan, Ave., Q.C. or
See Any e-Yellow Pages Under Glass Tels.: 435-6391/926-6829
CEBU 233-8267 * DAVAO 221-8329 * ILO-ILO 337-3782
CDO 724-768 * BAGUIO 0917-9967760 * BACOOR (046) 870-2779
DO HOME SERVICE Bring this ad for P150 OFF Exp. 09/30/02
Website http://members.aol.com/hitecom

VILLANUEVA: Ateneo's main man. FILE PHOTO

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Memorial*)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs Perpetual (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs St. Benilde (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

SAN Sebastian College earned a twice-to-beat advantage going into the Final Four after routing Jose Rizal University, 101-82, yesterday at the end of their elimination stint in the 78th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Stags flexed their scoring might inside the paint with Leomar Najorda and Pep Moore doing most of the damage as the defending champions ended their regular campaign at the top of the heap with an 11-3 record.

SSC also dominated the boards, 61-35, 27 of them coming from the offensive end, that gave JRU a difficult time in the shaded lane.

Najorda banged in 17 points, while the 6-foot-7 Moore added 16 points and 13 rebounds for the Stags, who are closing in on a third straight championship appearance.

The Stags lost to the St. Benilde Blazers in the Finals of the 2000 season before winning the crown last year at the expense of the Bombers.

Najorda and Moore teamed up with Red Vicente and Christian Coronel to give the Stags a 57-47 lead at the half.

Earlier, the Mapua Cardinals drubbed the Letran Knights, 80-71, to close out their campaign tied with their victims at 7-7.

SSC 101—Najorda 17, Moore 16, Vicente 15, Coronel 12, Falcasantos 11, Alfad 6, Gonzales 6, Baluyot 5, Uy 5, Reguerra 4, Santos 2, Nadela 2, Legarde 0, De Leon 0.

JRU 82—Fajardo 13, Altunaga 11, Villarin 10, Te 10, Finuliar 9, Paule 5, Borboran 4, Estolano 2, Jorge 2, De Vera 2, Callelero 2, Ngo 2, Ong 0.

Maroons seek repeat vs Eagles today

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
1:30 p.m.–Ateneo vs UP
3:30 p.m.–Adamson vs UE

By Roy Luarca

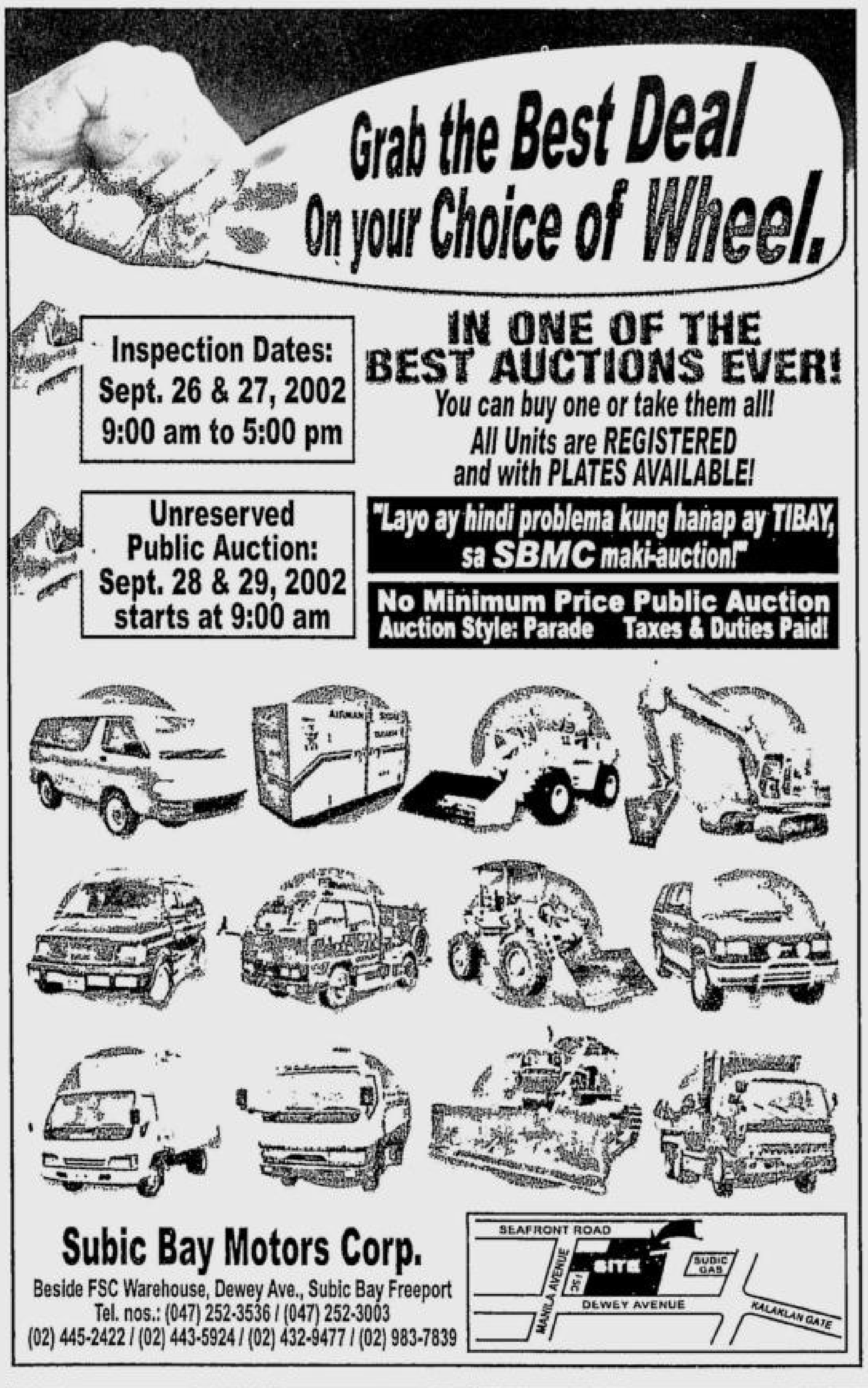
THE UP Maroons will try to prove that their first round victory over the Ateneo Blue Eagles was no fluke when they clash anew at 1:30 p.m. today in the resumption of the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Banking on the second half explosion of pint-sized rookie Jonjon Tabique, the Maroons downed the Blue Eagles, 53-49, on July 28, triggering a three-game skid for coach Joel Banal's wards.

Despite losing starting point guard L. A.Tenorio for the season due to a right hand fracture, however, the Bue Eagles have managed to stay afloat by beating the National University Bulldogs, 90-79, and then nipping the UST Growling Tigers, 65-64, last Saturday.

With a 6-win, 5-loss slate, the Blue Eagles share third place with the Tigers and they can close in on a Final Four berth by exacting revenge over the Maroons, who are in the lower half of the standings at 4-6.

Banal will again bank on Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez to crash the boards and score the points, while hoping that Cris Quimpo and Macky Escalona step up in the absence of Tenorio.



Grab the Best Deal On your Choice of Wheel.
Inspection Dates:
Sept. 26 & 27, 2002
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
IN ONE OF THE BEST AUCTIONS EVER!
You can buy one or take them all!
All Units are REGISTERED and with PLATES AVAILABLE!
Unreserved Public Auction:
Sept. 28 & 29, 2002
starts at 9:00 am
"Layo ay hindi problema kung hanap ay TIBAY, sa SBMC maki-auction!"
No Minimum Price Public Auction
Auction Style: Parade Taxes & Duties Paid!
Subic Bay Motors Corp.
Beside FSC Warehouse, Dewey Ave., Subic Bay Freeport
Tel. nos.: (047) 252-3536 / (047) 252-3003
(02) 445-2422 / (02) 443-5924 / (02) 432-9477 / (02) 983-7839

Bayno: 'Superman' will carry us through

In a major twist, the American coach of Talk N Text has downplayed his chances against Batang Red Bull

By June Navarro

AMERICAN coach Bill Bayno of Talk N Text said yesterday the key to his Phone Pals' victory is "believing in ourselves."

Bayno recognizes Batang Red Bull's big advantage of having the tallest import combination in the league. Include what he calls "the Thunder's explosive local support."

Surprisingly, the controversial, fine-prone coach has downplayed his team's chances in the Red-Bull-Talk N Text title series for the PBA Commissioner's Cup that begins tomorrow.

"They've (Thunder) got loads of talent, so I guess the only way to beat them is to make up with heart and desire," said Bayno of his Phone Pals.

The 40-year-old former University of Las Vegas-Nevada coach said Red Bull's towering frontline is something he will have to contend with, too.

Bayno named the Thunder's Tony Lang and Julius Nwosu, both 6-foot-8s, and the 6-foot-6 Davonn Harp, the league's frontrunner in the Best Player of the Conference award, as the biggest thorn on the Phone Pals' title bid.

"Lang and Nwosu are hard to stop. Harp? He's a monster. We just need to find a way to battle them on the boards," Bayno said.

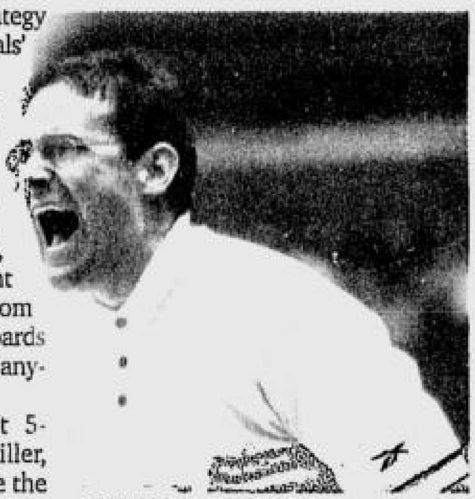
"I don't know how to do it but we have to find a way to cover them inside."

Bayno said his imports—Pete Mickeal (6-foot-6) and Jerald Honeycutt (6-foot-8)—don't have the size to match up, something that can instantly neutralize their offensive strategy as both imports are the Phone Pals' main scoring threat.

"That's a tough one. I hope we could figure that one out," said Bayno while swallowing the thought of a one-sided contest inside the paint.

The Thunder, Bayno added, can also come up with different guard combinations, all of whom can easily light up the scoreboards and explode from the outside anytime.

Bayno actually singled out 5-foot-10 playmaker Willie Miller, whose mere presence can make the Phone Pals feel they are battling four imports on the floor.



BAYNO FILE PHOTO.

"Willie Miller can play at Duke. Had Miller gone to high school in America, he could have easily made it to the Top 25 collegiate players in the country and probably get a chance to go to the NBA," said Bayno.

Add spitfire Jimwell Torion and shooters Junthy Valenzuela, Lordy Tugade and Anton Villoria to the fray and the Thunder become the hardest to beat, according to Bayno.

"Red Bull is by far the biggest challenge for us. Yeng (Guiao) has done a good job with that team; he can make them run the break or execute in the half-court. His players respect him. Yeng is a tough guy, and his team gets the toughness from him," he said.

Still, Bayno keeps his head high and believes that nothing is impossible.

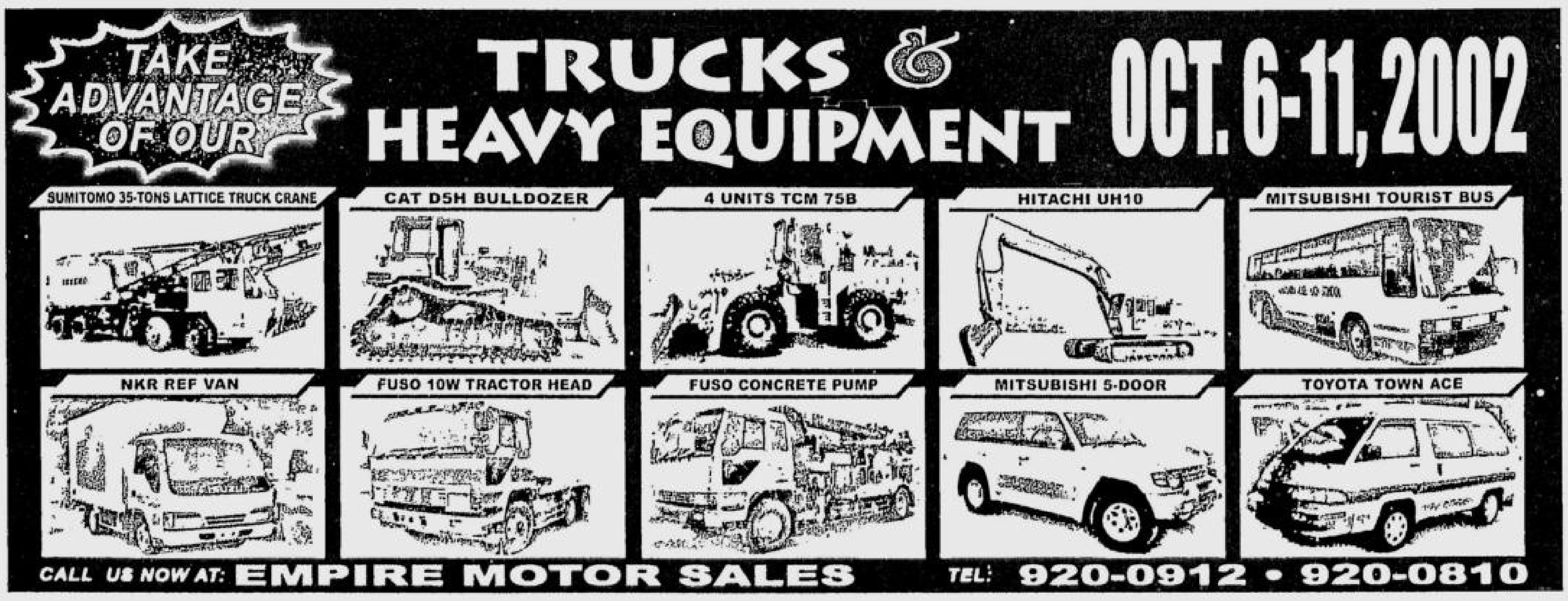
The championship showdown against Red Bull is just the second for the Talk N Text franchise since it joined the league in 1996. Talk N Text, which beat Alaska (89-73) in the deciding Game 5 of their semifinal series, lost to Shell in the Finals of the 1998 Governors Cup.

"So far, our conditioning has made us the best-shaped team in the league. We do a drill called superman, which nobody else does and it carried us through the third and fourth quarters every game," said Bayno.

"I've got a group of guys nobody wanted but could make things turn around for us," he said.

Bayno is referring to Elmer Lago, Vic Pablo, Felix Belano, Gilbert Demape, Mark Telan and Kenny Evans.

"No one would ever have thought they could do the things they've been doing except me and my staff—and themselves," said Bayno. "We just have to believe in ourselves."



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
TRUCKS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OCT. 6-11, 2002
SUMITOMO 35-TONS LATTICE TRUCK CRANE
CAT D5H BULLDOZER
4 UNITS TCM 75B
HITACHI UH10
MITSUBISHI TOURIST BUS
NKR REF VAN
FUSO 10W TRACTOR HEAD
FUSO CONCRETE PUMP
MITSUBISHI 5-DOOR
TOYOTA TOWN ACE
CALL US NOW AT: EMPIRE MOTOR SALES TEL: 920-0912 • 920-0810

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Joselito Cada posted 4.5 points to cop the 1994 Bato Balani Executive Active Chess Series at the Active Chess Center of Asia in Makati. Also today in 1995, Pepon Marave raced to 137 points to snatch the Formula Super A championship of the Shell Super Karting series at the Carmona Circuit.

NO ADVERTISING
NO SHOWS
pana
4 YEARS
CELEBRATE AD MONTH SEPTEMBER 2002

Known trader arrested

POLICE arrested Rene dela Riva Knecht, a prominent businessman, in Antipolo City for illegal drug possession on Tuesday afternoon. Knecht, 65, a resident of 5 Woodpecker Drive, Victoria Valley, Antipolo City was arrested by virtue of a warrant issued by Manila City Executive judge Enrico Lanzanas. He did not resist arrest. *Nelson Flores*

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Mayors' league backs Tinga

By Christian V. Esguerra

METRO Manila mayors have closed ranks in support of beleaguered Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga who is in danger of losing the mayoral seat in a recall election.

The Metro Manila Mayors League yesterday asked Congress to review the Local Government Code's provision on recall election, warning that moneyed politicians could abuse the system.

The mayors also asked the Commission on Elections to be very strict in assessing petitions for recall.

"Recall elections are very divisive," Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad, the league's spokesperson told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Besides being exhaustive and expensive, they can also be abused by losing politicians."

Tinga, who is serving his first term, expressed the same sentiments on the recall move which Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano initiated against him.

Trinidad, who himself survived a recall in 2000, said losing candidates could easily bribe barangay officers into supporting the Preparatory Recall Assembly (PRA).

"If you have 84 officers in your area, rich politicians can easily spend P10,000 for each officer to support the recall," he said. "But then again, this will destroy the essence of elections."

Before the Pasay recall, Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo of Caloocan had to hurdle a similar attempt by former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr. to stage a political comeback in 1996. Malonzo survived the recall and is now serving his third and final term.

"In our experience, the recall divided the people," Trinidad said. "Until now, the people remain divided despite our efforts to unify them."

Yesterday, Commission on Elections chair Benjamin S. Abalos said he was not discouraging the conduct of a recall election in Taguig or in any other part of the country.

He was reacting to a statement of Rep. Cayetano who on Tuesday criticized the Comelec chair for reportedly discouraging the conduct of a recall in Taguig and making "sweeping statements."

In a letter sent to the INQUIRER, Abalos said he believed that the statement he made during a radio interview regarding the recall in Taguig "was taken out of context."

"The recall provision in the 1987 Constitution is a people power provision," Abalos said. "I have always been a staunch supporter of the People Power Movement and I will always be supportive of laws protecting the Filipino masses."

"I am sure Rep. Cayetano would not have made such a pronouncement ... if he heard my interview and understood the full context of my statement regarding recall elections."

On Sunday, Taguig was a town divided, with rabid supporters of both Tinga and Cayetano nearly coming to blows at the IMP Sea Breeze Resort in Barangay Hagonoy where the PRA was to be held.

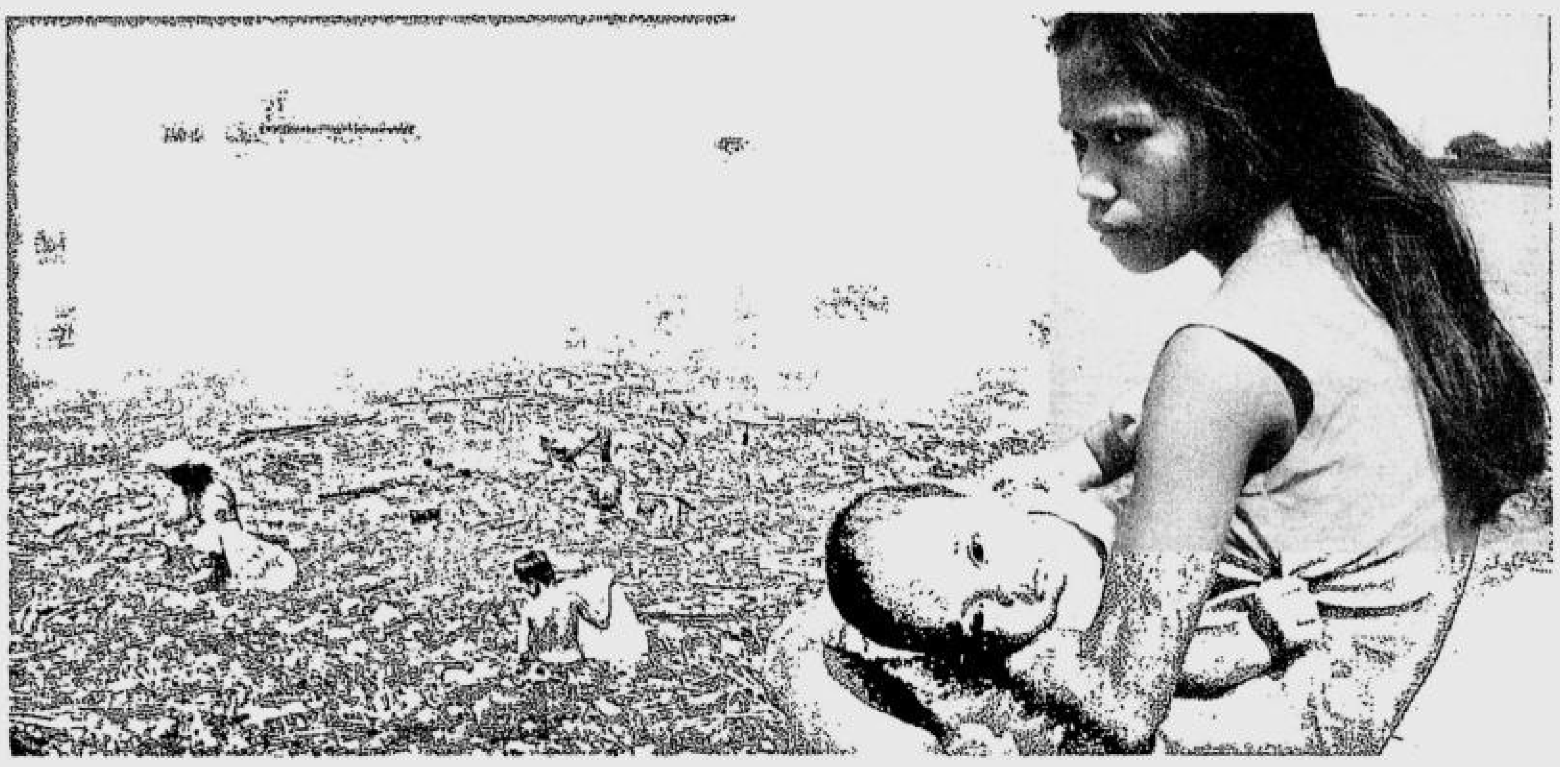
Tinga's followers, consisting of a number of municipal employees, set up human barricades and parked vehicles to prevent barangay officers from holding the assembly.

The Southern Police District had to deploy anti-riot police and members of the Special Weapons and Tactics to restore order.

In the end, 84 of the 162-member assembly signed a petition calling for a recall election. The petition will be filed before the Comelec within the week, Cayetano said.

A REFUGEE IN HER CITY

Jocelyn Diaz does not have to be driven away from Sabah in order to suffer the life of a refugee. She's experiencing it right in her city. She waits here with her daughter as husband and son sort out saleable garbage from a pile in Manila Bay. She needs to buy milk.



ERIK ARAZAS

Cops can't hold onto Chika Go slay suspect

By Philip C. Tubeza

A STRING of crimes attest to his notoriety but police cannot hold onto the suspect in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go.

Reason: A fiscal has set the case for further investigation.

This means that suspect Victor V. Macaldo, 27, of Block 8, Lot 38, Phase 2 Mary Homes Subd. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, would soon be released.

"We will be facing another blank wall. Of course, he will not come back even if he is subpoenaed later," said an investigator at the Western Police District.

"If he goes back (to his home province of) Leyte, what will we do? We don't have money to go there and pick him up," the investigator added.

COPS CAN'T /A20

WAZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	DV 8	INSTANT DOOR PRIZES UPON PURCHASE OF TICKET ☎ 9106681/6389511
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA	MR. ROXY ICE KENDI	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
Cowboy Grill ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	HIMIG J. BROTHERS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill	STREETLIFE MIXED-UP/PRYZM	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill	FAT 16 KOOL JACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MOODZ PERFECT STRANGER	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
LIVE STATION	MOONSTRUCKS ROCK & ROLL	FREEVERSE SEPT.06 #44 WEST AVE., Q.C. ☎ 373.5677
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	ZINJY VERSE 2	SOUTH BORDER SEPT.30 ☎ 890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST.	CITY BORN 7TH ELEMENT	SOUTH BORDER SEPT.23 ☎ 522.0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant TRI ALAM LUNETA, MANILA	ASCIANO	FREE SISIG EVERY 2 PITCHER OF DRAFT BEER ☎ 400.7438/39

THURSDAY, SEPT. 05 912-8983

LiBRe
No secret deal, says Gloria
We've captured YOUR market!

Libre offers up the proverbial captive market: 600,000 working class riders of the MRT and LRT. For a few precious minutes everyday, these commuters have nothing to do but read and focus on your advertising messages. Libre's articles are short, useful and relevant to the mass market. The size is easy to handle with one hand on the grab-rail. But the best thing about it is how much it costs readers: NOTHING. Making it perhaps the most captivating thing in transit. For ad rates and other inquiries please contact: Izelle Medina (0916) 4483625 or Jenny Rockwell (0917) 2734103.

INQUIRER LiBRe

A very inefficient hospital

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE Philippine National Police (PNP), in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), is in the midst of a drug eradication campaign.

It's not going to be easy completely eliminating in a short time what has been there for decades. The drug problem, which has taken roots, can only be minimized.

But the PNP and PDEA are starting right. They have identified five depressed areas in Metro Manila that are havens of drug pushers. They will soon conduct raids on these places.

***

But even if the PNP and PDEA caught all the drug pushers in Metro Manila, that wouldn't mean anything because the big-time traffickers don't live in squatters areas but in posh villages.

Some drug traffickers hold office right inside Camp Crame and the National Bureau of Investigation. Some policemen and NBI agents "recycle" illegal drugs they have confiscated by selling them to drug traffickers and pushers.

If these policemen and NBI agents are identified, half of the problem shall have been solved.

***

Who owns those billboard structures on the railroad tracks in Metro Manila?

There are 20 such structures on the property of the Philippine National Railways. They pose a hazard to life and limb.

One such structure, in the Nichols area between Edsa and FTI Compound, fell on some squatter shanties during heavy monsoon winds recently. The fallen billboard structure blocked the passage of PNR trains.

Fortunately no one was hurt.

***

I gathered that the billboard structures were set up during the past PNR administrations.

Was there a contract for the setting up of those structures?

How durable are the other standing structures? Are they insured against accidents?

The PNR management should answer those questions.

***

If the complaint against the Manila Central University (MCU) Hospital in Caloocan City is true, then patients brought there don't have a fighting chance.

Gross inefficiency of the hospital's medical staff caused the death of former Judge Francisco Villanueva, legal consultant at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), according to his daughter, Payan Villanueva-Romero.

Villanueva was taken to the MCU Hospital after he suffered a stroke. He would have lived to this day if not for the medical staff's clumsiness.

***

You know what happened while Villanueva was being taken to the hospital's intensive care unit? He fell to the concrete floor while being transferred to the bed from the stretcher by the hospital staff!

How could they be so clumsy!

As a result, the doctors, nurses and nursing aides had to attend to Villanueva's profusely bleeding nose, swollen eyes and badly bruised face in addition to his stroke. The patient's nose was fractured from the fall.

***

A second CT scan had to be taken on Villanueva for his hospital-sustained injuries. The first CT scan was to have determined the extent of damage to his head as a result of the stroke.

Villanueva died of hospital-sustained injuries. Doctors could not stop the bleeding in his nose.

An EENT (eye, ear, nose, throat) specialist came to give the patient first aid by ordering the suctioning of his mouth for the blood to come out. He left without giving the nurses further orders.

Sige, dalhin n'yo sa MCU Hospital ang inyong naghihingalong kamaganak para matuluyan !

Cops can't hold...

From page A19

Another source said Assistant Manila City prosecutor Reynaldo Liwanag ordered the case be put for further investigation on Tuesday night.

Liwanag noted that Macaldo's case could no longer be filed for inquest since he was arrested only on Sunday, long after Go's ambush on Aug. 10.

"He did not say that the case has been set for further investigation because it was weak. He would have also mentioned that if that was a reason," the source said.

The source said the WPD has informally asked Liwanag's superiors to overturn the inquest prosecutor's decision.

"We understand that the prosecutor is only following the rules but this will not really help the case," he added.

The source noted that the police witness had positively identified Macaldo as the gunman who peppered Go's Mitsubishi Pajero in Binondo, Manila on Aug. 10.

At press time yesterday, the investigators were still anxiously waiting for the official order from the prosecutor's office for Macaldo's release.

The source said the police have also identified Macaldo in a string of criminal cases in Manila and Las Piñas and are preparing to charge him for these alleged crimes.

He said Macaldo and his brothers Rolando, 29, and Reland, 20, were involved in the robbery of a Caltex station on P. Sanchez Street near the boundary of Manila and Mandaluyong.

Rolando was killed in a shootout with three Criminal Investigation and Detection Group members during the robbery but another family claimed his body.

Reland has allegedly gone back to Leyte after the robbery.

"He (Victor) gets involved in robberies if he has no contract (to kill) to keep his family afloat," the source said.

On June 8, Macaldo was allegedly also involved in a robbery of a gas station on P. Guzman and Tayuman streets.

The source added that Las Piñas police members went to the WPD headquarters yesterday because the suspect was also involved in a murder in Southern Metro Manila.

Atienza defends city vendors

By Jerome Aning

MANILA mayor Lito Atienza yesterday defended the city's so-called "organized vending scheme," and stressed it is the key to restoring order in the streets.

"Vending or selling in the streets is basically a positive human endeavor," he said in a speech before delegates of the Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners at City Hall.

"What is important is that we organize vendors so we also do not sacrifice the rights of the public such as pedestrians and motorists," he added.

The mayor said organized street vending is a legitimate practice in many Asian cities such as Hong Kong, Bangkok and Taipei.

He also shared with the delegates the "success" of the city's programs to relocate sidewalk vendors to sidestreets such as Villalobos and Carriento in Quiapo and Trece de Agosto in Paco.

The scheme, which Atienza called a "win-win" solution to the problem of illegal street vending, earlier drew criticism from Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando disagreed with the scheme, stressing that all streets should be freed from obstructions.

He compared "legitimizing" street vendors by giving them permits to peddle on sidewalks to allowing illegal gambling like jueteng to get conducted in the city.

Under Atienza's program, vendors in a particular area are "screened" to weed out "anarchists" and identify who of them really need assistance.

Those who are qualified would be organized into cooperatives. They will be issued uniformly designed stalls that they would rent for P20 a day.

They will also contribute another P20 daily to their respective cooperatives. A common fund would be created from which vendors seeking additional capital could borrow from.

The mayor, however, clarified that the scheme is "a temporary measure" given the present state of the country's economy.

Atienza said his admnistation is redeveloping city-owned public markets so it could accomodate more vendors and attract more shoppers.

"Many of the city's public markets are not in good condition," he said. Most of them are dark and cramped; this is not an incentive to consumers."

The city has renovated or is renovating the Pritil, Sampaloc, Arranque, Paco, and Sta. Ana public markets.

High alert in Malabon

By Tina Santos

MALABON City's acting mayor yesterday raised the security alert in city hall after he reportedly learned that certain groups identified with suspended mayor Amado Vicencio are out to sow terror in the city.

In his first official act as mayor, Mark Allan Jay Yambao appealed to residents, including supporters of the suspended mayor, to keep calm while Vicencio serves out his suspension.

Yambao also assured residents that the city is in safe hands under his 90-day stewardship.

Yambao took his oath as acting mayor on Monday before Judge Rosa Reyes of Regional Trial Court's Branch 74, mere hours after the Department of Interior and Local Government served the suspension order to Vicencio.

"I appeal to everyone not to get involved in anything that would disrupt the delivery of basic services, just to show loyalty to either side," Yambao said.

The acting mayor likewise said he had already directed Supt. Pete Ramos, city police chief, to secure city hall.

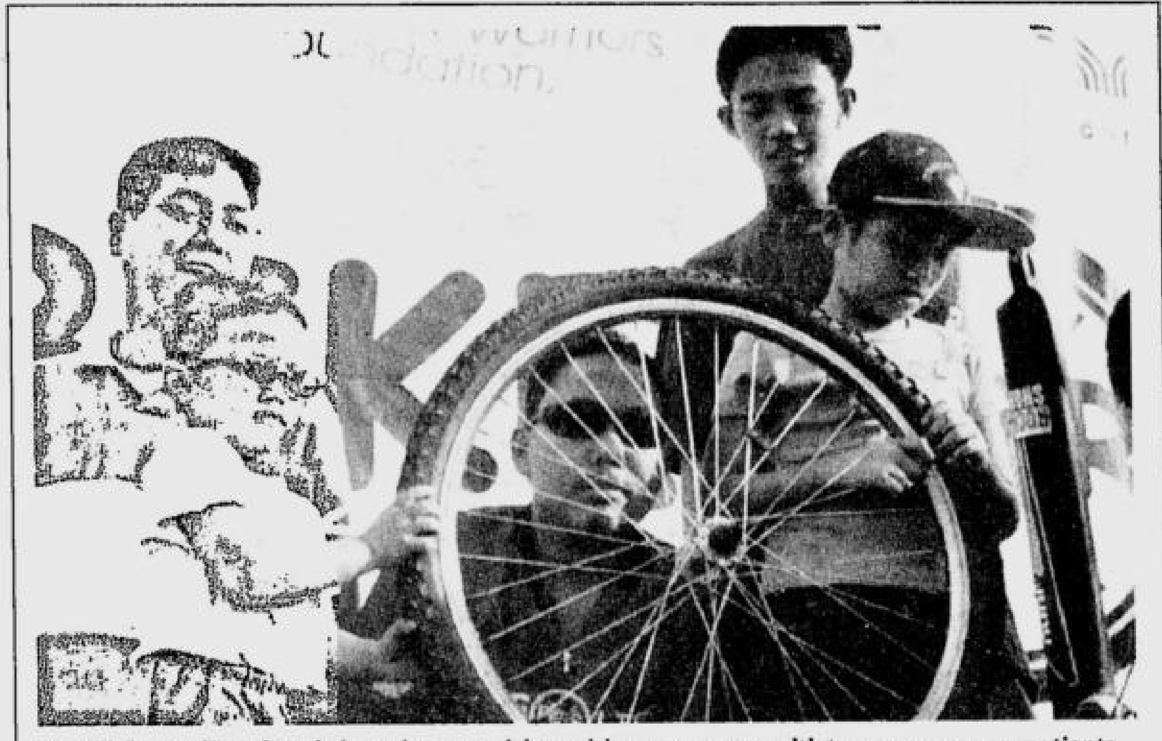
Vicencio's executive officer Cynthia Crisostomo said they don't have any plans of holding a protest rally. Instead, she said, they will only resort to wearing "red" clothes to dramatize their opposition to Vicencio's suspension.

Several hours before the suspension order was served, Vicencio reportedly attended a Holy Mass where he was quoted as saying that it was beyond his control if his sympathizers and supporters were to engage in violent activities.

Erice sent out of city hall

A CALOOCAN City Hall official yesterday issued a stern warning to Rep. Edgar Erice to surrender all city property issued to his district or administrative charges would be filed against him.

Members of the city council recently declared Erice "persona non grata," reportedly for his penchant to speak out against the administration of Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, particularly on the supposed bankruptcy of the city. Erice, who represents the city's second district, yesterday also received an official letter ordering him to vacate his office at the city hall's ground floor.



JAMES Auste, (in colored glasses) once stricken with cancer, poses with two young cancer patients during send-of ceremonies of the Bike-For-Life 2002 at The Fort, Taguig City. Jess Yuson

Warriors ride against cancer

THE CANCER Warriors Foundation continues its battle for children as it joins the world in observing September as International Children's Cancer Month.

The Bike for Life Project 2002 brings the message of hope. Join the Bike for Life Team, started Aug. 31 until Sept. 15, 2002, as it journeys up North through 14 towns and cities, proclaiming that cancer can be beaten through early detection and proper treatment.

A Bike for Life Northern Tour Package is open to bikers everywhere who wish to join James Auste and the Bike for Life Core Team from Manila to Pagudpod and back to -Manila.

A minimum donation of P10,000 will entitle a volunteer biker to board and lodging, meals, snacks, security, bike maintenance and support for 15 days throughout the fundraising Northern Tour.

Bike for Life 2002 returns to Manila on Sept. 15, and culminates with a musical concert, entitled Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser.

All Proceeds of the Bike for Life Project 2002 will go directly to the treatment of poor disadvantaged children stricken with cancer through the Cancer Warrior Fund.

Interested Bikers can contact Mr. James Auste at 833-0059 or 0917-848-5258. Donations for the Cancer Warrior Fund may be deposited in ACCOUNT NUMBER 007168509240 in any Metro Bank Branch.

The Cancer Warrior Foundation is the embodiment of a dream that no Filipino child will suffer a diminished quality of life because of cancer!

It is a fulfillment of a promise made by Auste, while he was still battling brain cancer, that every Filipino child, stricken with cancer, especially the poor and disadvantaged, will have an equal chance to conquer the disease and avail of treatments.

The Cancer Warriors Foundation is essentially a volunteer network of young people who have committed-and are freely sharing their time, skills and resources to advance the fight against childhood cancer.

NBI presents suspect in slay of Revilla aide

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) presented yesterday one of the suspects in the killing of an aide of Videogram Regulatory Board chair Bong Revilla in Mandaluyong on Aug. 17.

But the suspect said NBI agents tortured him so he would confess to the crime.

NBI acting Director Fermin N. Nasol presented Joy M. Jaralve, a stay-in driver of Chantilly Villas, Busilac corner Hilaga street, Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City, for the brutal murder of NBI confidential agent Vincent F. Pulgar, also of Chantilly Villas.

Nasol added that NBI agents were still hunting down Jaralve's five male accomplices.

But Jaralve insisted he was tortured.

"They set me up. I was tortured. Tinubig ako," he said while crying in front of TV cameras.

"They (tagged) me just so the case would be considered solved," Jaralve added.

However, NBI officials claimed they have a strong case, adding that Jaralve's palm print was found on Pulgar's Mitsubishi Pajero.

Lawyer Sixto Comia, NBI-Criminal Intelligence Division head agent, said the victim was abducted at Chantilly Villas on the early morning of August 17.

Pulgar had just arrived at the villas when security guard Francis Esposo suddenly heard the loud siren of Esposo's Pajero wail.

Esposo said he quickly opened the gate, thinking that it was an emergency. He saw the Pajero drive away towards the direction of Barangka Drive.

Out of curiosity, Esposo went to the victim's unit, Unit 16, to see what happened.

He said he was surprised when he saw fresh footprints and bloodstains scattered on the floor.

Esposo said he immediately informed the Mandaluyong police and the victim's brother, Virgilio.

A few hours later, the victim's body was found in a grassy area of Daang Kalabaw, Sitio Payong, Tumana Concepcion Uno, Marikina City.

The victim died due to strangulation and a fractured skull.

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL DWRT PREMIERE
on September 5, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on September 11 at the SM CINEMAS.
DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD
Mothers. Daughters. The never-ending story of good vs evil.

METROBRIEFS

Fire in Novaliches

SOME P5 million worth of property on Tuesday went up in smoke when fire hit the 3-storey factory of Metro Pack Corp. at 1129 Quirino Highway in Barangay Kaligayan, Novaliches Quezon City, according to the Quezon City Fire District. Arson investigator FO2 Noel Bernardino said the fire started in the accounting division of the factory on the third floor and quickly spread to the whole building. No one was reported injured in the blaze.

Alcuin Papa

Killed before friends

DENARD TINAO, 19, of 357 Nawasa Road, Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City was yesterday shot dead in in front of his friends, police said. Police reports showed that Tinao was talking to his friends Edmon Seria and a certain Bong at 1:20 a.m. in front of a carinderia located on 8 Area 9-B, Luzon Avenue when two unidentified men alighted from a gray car, approached the group and shot Tinao. The suspects escaped after the shooting, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Shortlived shopping

NESTOR FLORENDO, alias "Hazel," 21, of 138 Rotonda St., Pasig City, on Monday was arrested after allegedly stealing the bag of lawyer Ma. Antonette Arguelles, 34, inside the chapel at the corner of Ortigas Vanue and Edsa in Quezon City. Arguelles told police that she was praying inside the chapel at about 7:00 a.m. and left her bag on the seat to kneel down. When she got up, her bag containing P28,000, credit cards and ATM card and a cellphone was gone, she said. Argulles gave police a description of the suspect, whom she said was hanging around her at the chapel. The suspect was arrested after he was spotted shopping for clothes in Rustan's Makati. Police found on the suspect the victim's bag, her Nokia 6150 cellphone, ATM card and credit cards, and P8,000.

Alcuin Papa

AYALA CINEMAS

AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR ZHANG YIMOU'S "HAPPY TIMES" AT ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1

Critically-acclaimed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's latest masterpiece "HAPPY TIMES," a light-hearted look at life and the pursuit of love and happiness, will have its exclusive screening at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1 starting September 4.

The director has a long history of well-received films. Zhang made his directorial debut in 1988 with "Red Sorghum." The film won the Golden Bear Award for Best Picture at the 1989 Berlin Film Festival. He went to direct several more films including "Ju Dou" (1990) which was nominated for an Oscar in 1991; "Raise the Red Lantern" (1991) which was awarded the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival & was also nominated for an Academy Award; "The Story of Qiu Ju" (1992) which won the Golden Lion at the 1992 Venice Film Festival; "To Live" (1994) which won the Grand Jury Prize & Best Actor Award at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival; and "Shanghai Triad," which was an Official Selection in Cannes in 1995 and received the Best Foreign Language Film prize from the National Board Review.

If you adored the last two films of Zhang: "Not One Less" and "The Road Home", which were both screened at ArtFilm don't you dare miss his latest masterpiece "Happy Times" shown only at ArtFilm - Greenbelt 1.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
2 (SDDS)	TRIPLE X
3 (DTS)	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 GOLD(DTS)	THE ROOKIE
5 GOLD(DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
6 GOLD(SDDS)	SIGNS
7 GOLD(DOLBY)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8	GAMITAN
9	LILO & STITCH
10	JOLOGS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel [illegible] TEL. 551 63 87

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	HIGH RISK

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HIGH RISK
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	BAKAT

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	DERAILED
2	GAMITAN
3	BAKAT
4	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13

BOURNE IDENTITY

SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6, WED,THUR, FRI.

TIME : 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 10:30.

5:30 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:30 PM.

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	JOLOGS
2	LILO & STITCH

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	AMBISYOSA
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	GAMITAN
2	
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5	HIGH RISK
6	BAKAT
7 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
8 (SDDS)	SIGNS
9 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	GAMITAN
4 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
5	JOLOGS
6 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
7 (DTS)	HIGH RISK
8	TRIPLE X
9	DERAILED

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

4	JOLOGS
5 (SDDS)	HIGH RISK
6 (DTS)	BAKAT
7 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
8	GAMITAN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	HIGH RISK
2	BAKAT
3 (DTS)	JOLOGS
4	GAMITAN
5 (SDDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKAT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKAT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HIGH RISK
Lords	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HIGH RISK
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	GAMITAN
4	JOLOGS
5	BAKAT

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
6	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
7	HIGH RISK

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400

1	BAKAT
2	BOURNE IDENTITY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7583

1	JOLOGS
2 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY)	SIGNS
3 (DTS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
4	AUSTIN POWER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	JOLOGS
2	GAMITAN
3	SIGNS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 (DTS)	DERAILED

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	JOLOGS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	DERAILED
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4	HIGH RISK

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3 (DTS)	AUSTIN POWER-3
4	GAMITAN
5	BAKAT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JOLOGS
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	BAKAT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	BAKAT
2	JOLOGS
3	BOURNE IDENTITY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233

1	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	GAMITAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKAT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	JOLOGS
2	TRIPLE X
3	BIGLANG LIKO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

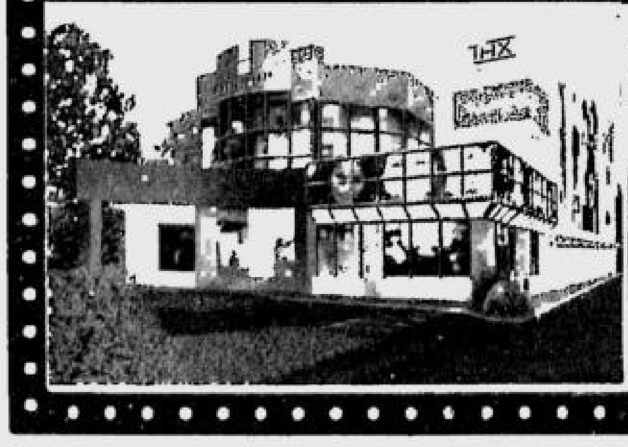
1	GAMITAN
2	DERAILED
3	TRIPLE X
4	JOLOGS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 (DTS)	SIGNS
4	AUSTIN POWER-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 9:45PM

MATT DAMON

THE BOURNE IDENTITY

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	HIGH RISK
2	SIGNS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	TRIPLE X
5	DERAILED
6	JOLOGS
7	BAKAT
8	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	JOLOGS
2	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	BAKAT
5	HIGH RISK
6	GAMITAN
7	TRIPLE X
8	DERAILED
9	SIGNS
10	AUSTIN POWERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	JOLOGS
2	HIGH RISK
3	TRIPLE X
4	SIGNS
5	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BAKAT
7	AUSTIN POWERS
8	GAMITAN
9	DERAILED
10	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
11	UNFAITHFUL
12	JOLOGS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	AUSTIN POWERS
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	THE ROOKIE
4	SIGNS
5	TRIPLE X
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	HIGH RISK
8	DERAILED
9	JOLOGS
10	GAMITAN
11	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
12	BAKAT

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	DERAILED
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	HIGH RISK
6	THE ROOKIE
7	GAMITAN
8	AUSTIN POWERS
9	JOLOGS
10	TRIPLE X
11	BAKAT
12	HIGH EXPLOSIVES

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HIGH RISK
2	GAMITAN
3	BAKAT
4	JOLOGS
5	AUSTIN POWERS
6	SIGNS
7	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
8	TRIPLE X

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THE ROOKIE
2	AUSTIN POWERS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS
5	DERAILED
6	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X
9	HIGH RISK
10	BAKAT

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	KILLING ME SOFTLY
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
3	UNFAITHFUL
4	SWEETEST THING
5	SEX & ZEN
6	GAMITAN
7	JOLOGS
8	TRIPLE X

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	BIGLANG LIKO
2	CLOSED
3	SWEETEST THING
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	JOLOGS
6	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7	CLOSED
8	ORANGE COUNTY

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	ORANGE COUNTY
3	BAKAT
4	GAMITAN
5	SIGNS
6	JOLOGS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GAMITAN
2	JOLOGS
3	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4	SIGNS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	JOLOGS
4	HIGH RISK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	TRIPLE X
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SWEETEST THING
6	INSOMNIA

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm • Monday thru Friday

Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm • Saturday • Sunday • Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	HIGH RISK
3	THE ROOKIE
4	AUSTIN POWERS
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	SIGNS
7	BAKAT
8	JOLOGS
9	TRIPLE X
10	UNFAITHFUL

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	BAKAT
3	HIGH RISK
4	SIGNS
5	THE ROOKIE
6	JOLOGS
7	AUSTIN POWERS

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	GAMITAN
2	BOURNE IDENTITY
3	AUSTIN POWERS
4	TRIPLE X
5	HIGH RISK
6	JOLOGS
7	SIGNS
8	BAKAT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	TRIPLE X
3	JOLOGS
4	UNFAITHFUL
5	SIGNS
6	AUSTIN POWERS
7	BAKAT
8	GAMITAN

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	TRIPLE X
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	JOLOGS
3	SPIRIT
4	THE SWEETEST THING
5	INSOMNIA
6	GAMITAN

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	BOURNE IDENTITY
2	UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING
4	JOLOGS
5	ORANGE COUNTY
6	BIGLANG LIKO

Star Mills- San Fernando, Pamp
875- 1927
961 5318 / 5270

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	SIGNS
3	JOLOGS
4	BAKAT
5	BOURNE IDENTITY
6	BOURNE IDENTITY

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

how-2-reach-us:

email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MTV to hold loudest rock party ever in Makati City

DRESS UP as your favorite rock icon and join the loudest rock costume party ever allowed in Makati.

Join MTV VJ Sarah Meier, Slapshock and surprise hard-core bands to awaken the rocker in you. Prizes will be given out to the best in rock costume.

The rockin' and rollin' takes place at the Hard Rock Café in Makati City starting at 8 p.m., brought to you by MTV Philippines and Red Horse Beer.

"MTV Rock'd," MTV Philippines' offering for head-banging rockers, is "a show with absolutely no boy bands." It features old and new artists like Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Black Sabbath, as well as local faves Wolfgang, Razorback, Cheese and Slapshock.

"MTV Rock'd," hosted by MTV VJ Sarah, is on every Tuesday at 10 p.m., Thursday at 3 p.m., and Sunday at 11 p.m.

It also includes CD Review on what's hot and what's not in the shelves; "This Week in Rock," which offers history lessons with an edge; "Gear Up," with the latest info on equipment; "Rock Stars," with interviews; and "Unsigned," with bright new talents and all-original music.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 on free TV as well as Sky Cable and Home Cable.

Call your cable operator for the channel designation.

For more information, call the MTV hotline at 882-1MTV or log on to www.mtvasia.com.

To text your comments, type PEX MTV (your comment) and send to 2333 (Globe) or 2443 (Smart).

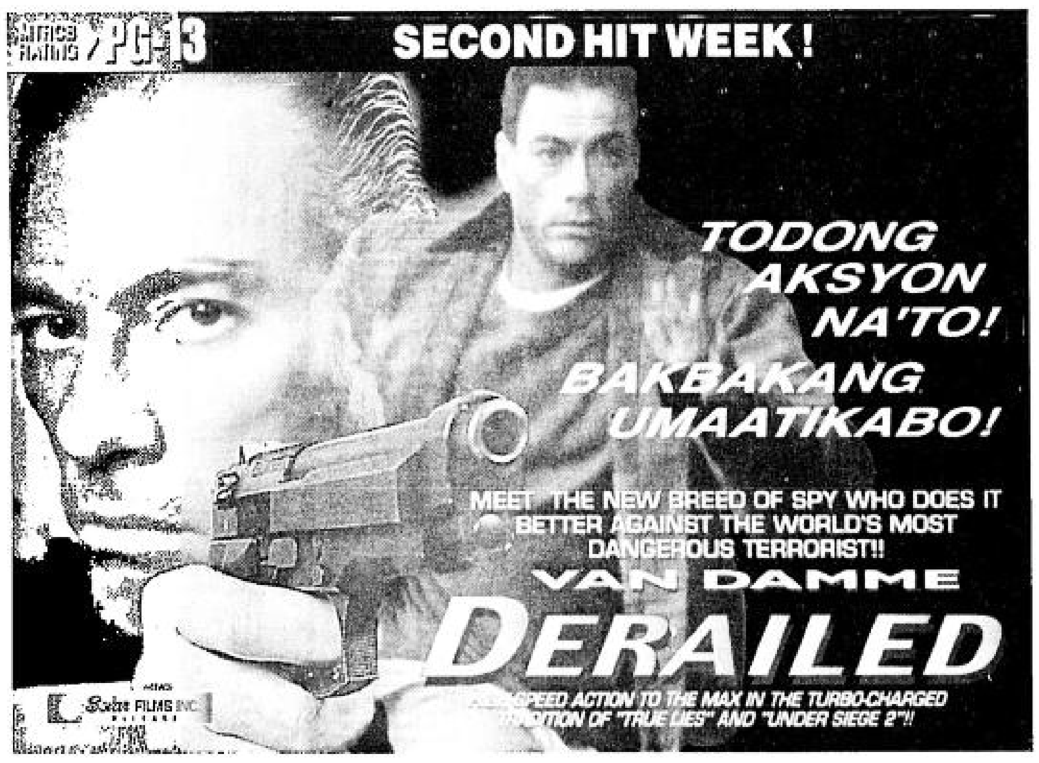
MTV Networks Asia owns and operates five 24-hour programming services which serve a total of more than 130 million homes: MTV Southeast Asia, MTV Philippines, MTV Mandarin, MTV India and MTV Korea. It also has programming blocks on local cable stations in China.

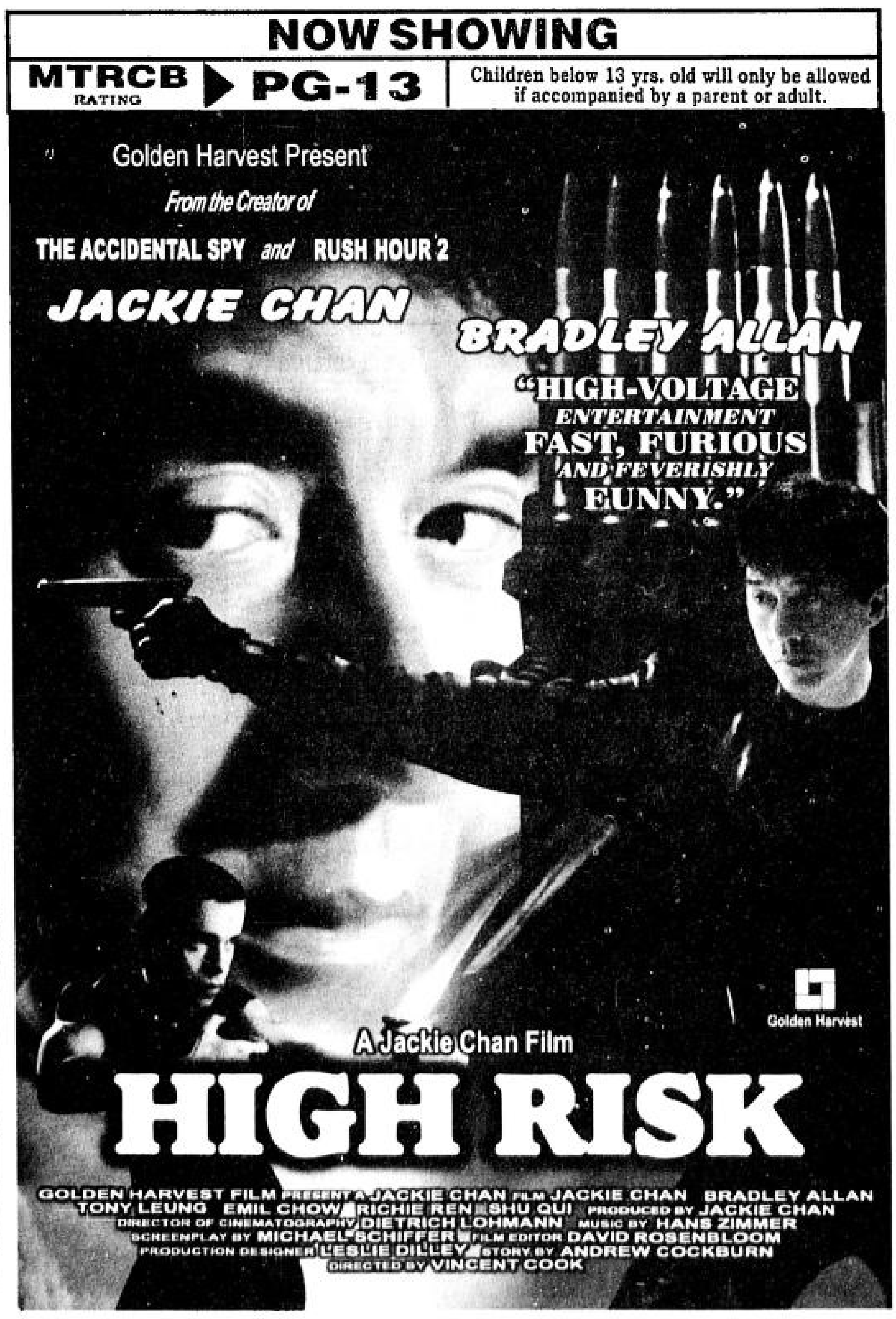
MTV Networks Asia is a joint venture of MTV Networks, a division of Viacom Inc., and Universal Music.

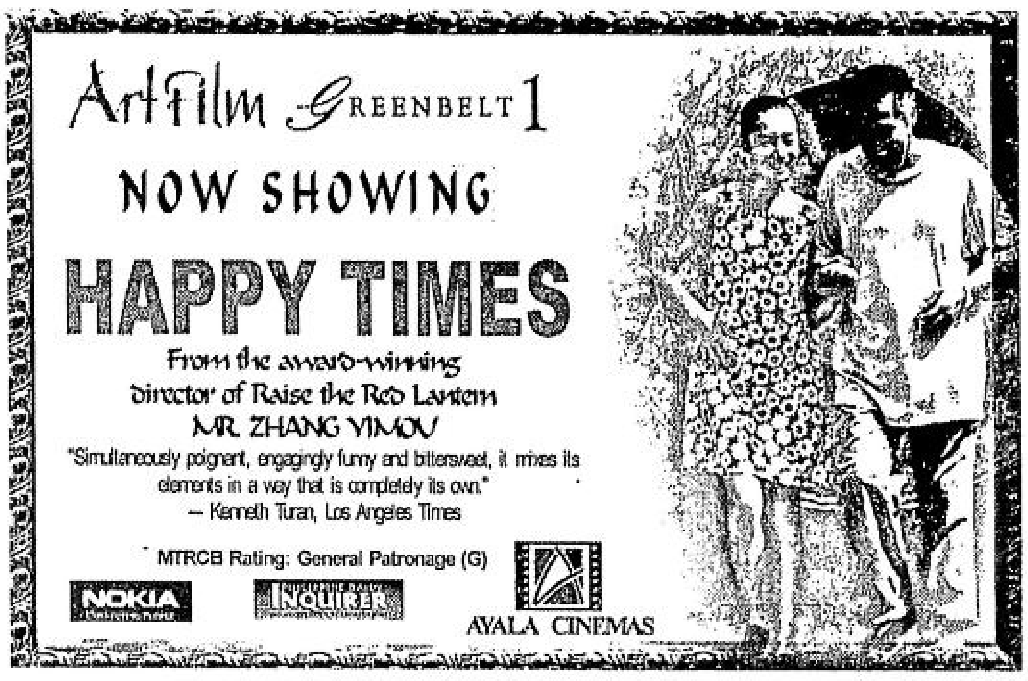
SARAH MEIER

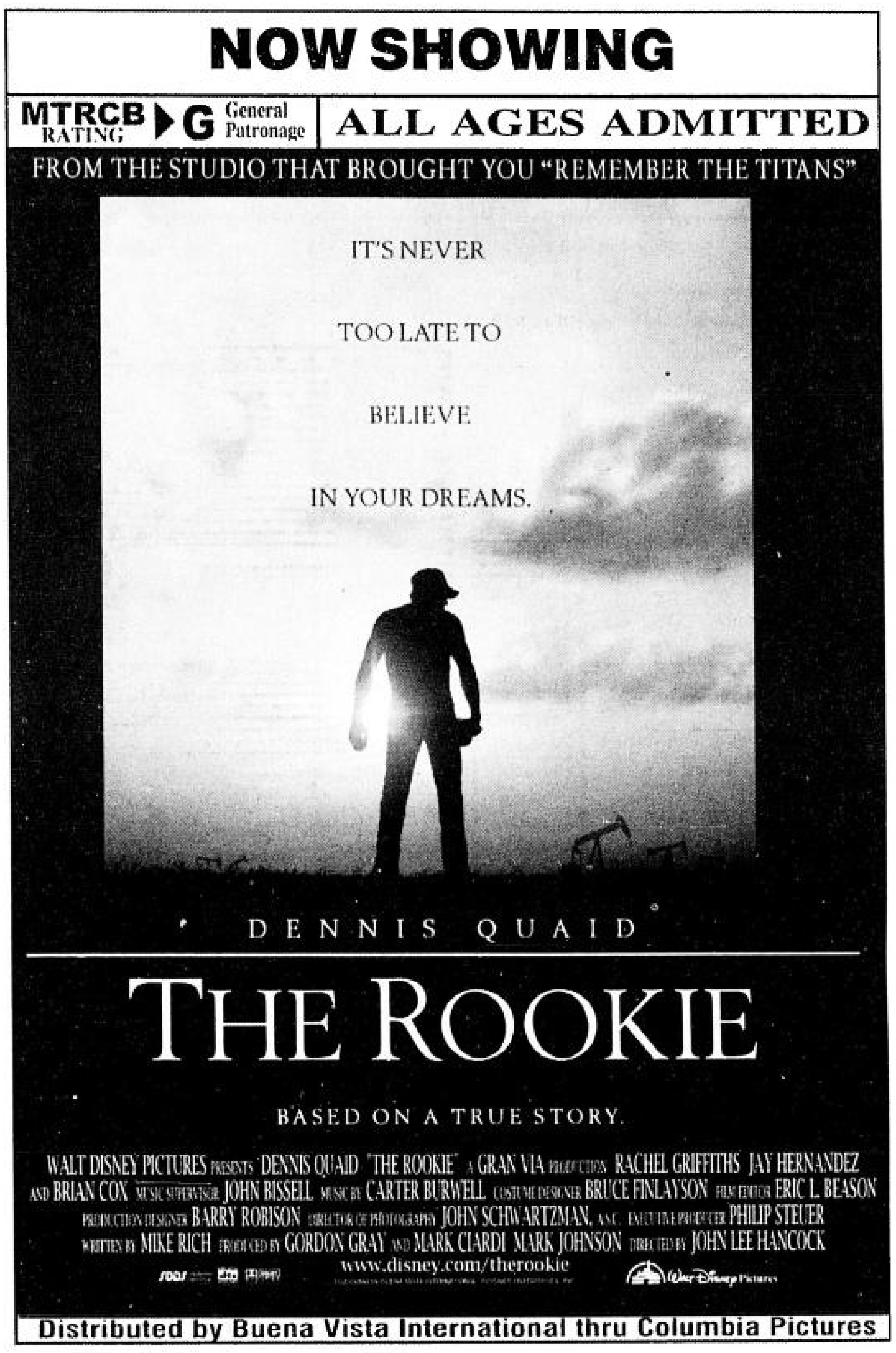
Surf the site. Get FREE Behind The Scenes access, starting Sept. 6 to 15, 2002 at cinema lobby of
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMAS
Galleria, Ermita, Metro-East- Pasig and Novaliches.
FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE
REIGN OF FIRE
FREE REIGN OF FIRE interactive CD's while supply lasts.
compass

AYALA CINEMAS
Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY
NOW SHOWING
The Yin-Yang Master,
Starring: Mansai Nomura, Hideaki Ito, Hiroyuki Sanada, Kyoko Koizumi, Eriko Emai, Directed by Yojiro Takita
Two noble families compete for the emperor's favors. In their quest for power, they enlist the Yin-Yang Masters, Seimei & Doson. But an unforseen evil takes hold of Doson who now wants the emperor's throne for himself. It will be up to Seimei to stop him.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG13)
SKYFILMS
NOKIA
INQUIRER


MTRCB RATING PG-13
SECOND HIT WEEK!
TODONG AKSYON NA'TO!
BAKBAKANG UMAATIKABO!
MEET THE NEW BREED OF SPY WHO DOES IT BETTER AGAINST THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS TERRORIST!!
VAN DAMME
DERAILED
HIGH-SPEED ACTION TO THE MAX IN THE TURBO-CHARGED TRADITION OF "TRUE LIES" AND "UNDER SIEGE 2"!!
Solar FILMS INC.


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Golden Harvest Present
From the Creator of
THE ACCIDENTAL SPY and RUSH HOUR 2
JACKIE CHAN
BRADLEY ALLAN
"HIGH-VOLTAGE ENTERTAINMENT FAST, FURIOUS AND FEVERISHLY FUNNY."
Golden Harvest
A Jackie Chan Film
HIGH RISK
GOLDEN HARVEST FILM PRESENT A JACKIE CHAN FILM JACKIE CHAN BRADLEY ALLAN TONY LEUNG EMIL CHOW RICHIE REN SHU QUI PRODUCED BY JACKIE CHAN DIRECTOR OF CINEMATOGRAPHY DIETRICH LOHMANN MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER SCREENPLAY BY MICHAEL SCHIFFER FILM EDITOR DAVID ROSENBLOOM PRODUCTION DESIGNER LESLIE DILLEY STORY BY ANDREW COCKBURN DIRECTED BY VINCENT COOK

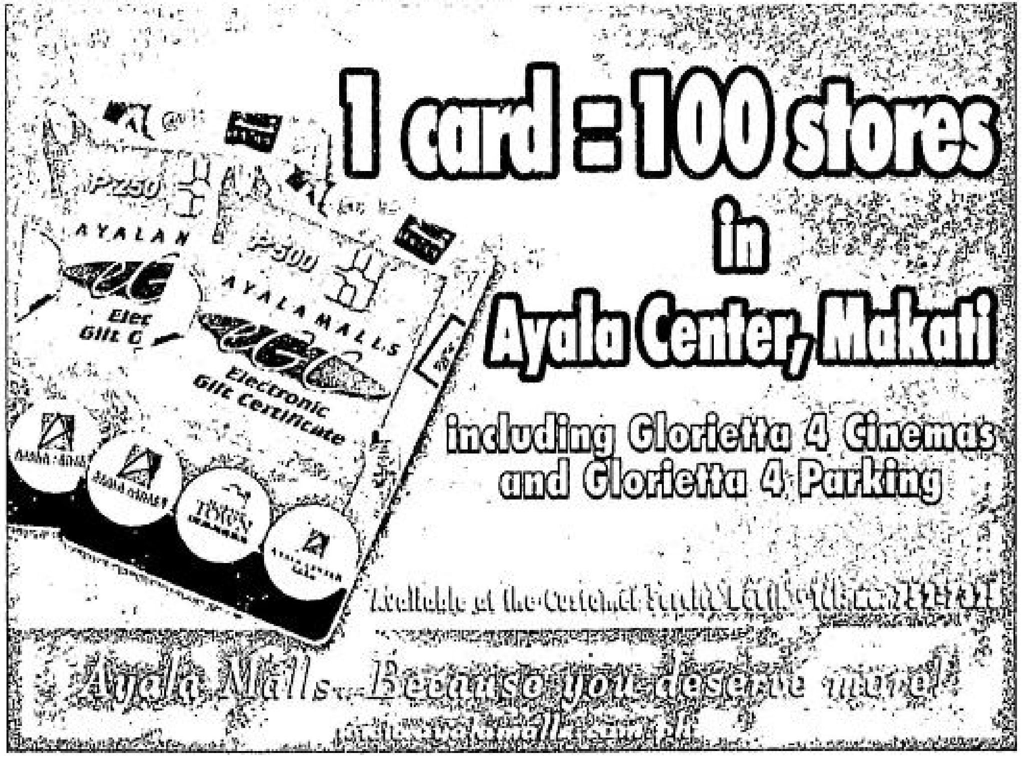

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
NOW SHOWING
HAPPY TIMES
From the award-winning director of Raise the Red Lantern MR. ZHANG YIMOU
"Simultaneously poignant, engagingly funny and bittersweet, it mixes its elements in a way that is completely its own."
— Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)
NOKIA
INQUIRER
AYALA CINEMAS


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU "REMEMBER THE TITANS"
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAMS.
DENNIS QUAID
THE ROOKIE
BASED ON A TRUE STORY.
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS "DENNIS QUAID" "THE ROOKIE" A GRAN VIA PRODUCTION RACHEL GRIFFITHS JAY HERNANDEZ AND BRIAN COX MUSIC SUPERVISOR JOHN BISSELL MUSIC BY CARTER BURWELL COSTUME DESIGNER BRUCE FINLAYSON FILM EDITOR ERIC L. BEASON PRODUCTION DESIGNER BARRY ROBISON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN SCHWARTZMAN, A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHILIP STEUER WRITTEN BY MIKE RICH PRODUCED BY GORDON GRAY AND MARK CIARDI MARK JOHNSON DIRECTED BY JOHN LEE HANCOCK
www.disney.com/therookie
Walt Disney Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
ALL DIGITAL	SOUND	CINEMAS		
1 SIGNS 2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 3 BAKAT 4 JOLOGS	1 THE ROOKIE 2 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 3 SIGNS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10.30 4 DERAILED 5 TRIPLE X 6 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 7 UNFAITHFUL	1 THE YIN-YANG MASTER (EXCLUSIVE) 2 HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive) onstage GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27	1 SIGNS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 3 TRIPLE X 10:50, 1 20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11 20, 1:20, 3.20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 5 THE ROOKIE 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20	1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 2 THE ROOKIE 3 SIGNS 4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 5 JOLOGS

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4 (or any Ayala Cinemas) and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
*GSC: Guaranteed Seats Cinema


1 card = 100 stores
in
Ayala Center, Makati
including Glorietta 4 Cinemas and Glorietta 4 Parking
Ayala Malls... Because you deserve more!

A fourth Tulfo joins the business

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

*CONGRATULATIONS to **Ogie Alcasid** and **Michelle van Eimeren** on the birth of their second daughter, **Sarah Kate**, on Sept. 2. Ogie has all the inspiration he needs for his major concert at the Araneta Coliseum next month.*

I WAS invited by my longtime friend **Patrick Tulfo**, *Tito* **Mon**'s *guapito* son, to the press luncheon of his Uncle Ben.

As soon as Ben walked into the room, one can't help but pay attention. He's got an air of dignity about him and once he starts talking, you are enthralled. You'll see what I mean on Sept. 14 at 5 p.m. on ABC Channel 5 when **Ben Tulfo**'s investigative-undercover TV program, "Bitag," premieres.

He refuses to be identified with what he calls "*nakapaketeng* image *ng mga* Tulfo *sa* media." His famous brothers Mon, **Raffy** and **Erwin** all host their own hard-hitting TV shows. In fact, "Bitag" will be in a head-on collision with Mon's "Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo" (RPN 9).

"It's management's decision," Ben stressed, "but I don't deny that there's sibling rivalry among us. I consider Mon a formidable foe."

Ben's straightforwardness and no-nonsense style surely set him apart. It's not that he's being arrogant. He just knows for sure where he wants to go and where to take his viewers.

"For me it's not just a job but a way of life. In this industry, almost all shows are the same. We don't mean to be different but you can really see the difference in 'Bitag.' It will be fast-paced.

"I'll be where the action is. Even behind the scenes I will be hands-on in conceptualizing, writing and editing."

Tulfo vs Tulfo? Let the battle royale begin!

Pinay in Top Model

EXOTIC **Justine Gabionza** is in Dusseldorf, Germany to compete for the title Top Model of the World. Coronation night is on Sept. 8.

"This is the very first time the Philippines has a representative to the contest," said **Lorraine Schuck**, executive vice president of Carousel Productions who is the competition's Philippine licensee.

Justine is 19 and stands 5-foot-8, with vital statistics measuring 34-24-35. She was 1st runner-up in this year's Miss Philippines Earth Pageant. She is also a member of the RP fencing team which will compete in the next Southeast Asian games. She was voted 2001 Rookie of the Year for Fencing.

Regine a no-show

ALLOW me to give way to an e-mail from a disgruntled *kababayan* in Canada regarding **Regine Velasquez**'s no-show at her Toronto concert supposedly scheduled late last month.

"I'm writing in behalf of the Filipino community here in Toronto. Regine was supposed to have a concert at Massey Hall in downtown Toronto. On the same day she was supposed to perform, I got a call from Roy Thomson Hall of the Massey Hall Ticket Office informing me that her concert scheduled for today has been canceled and won't be rescheduled for any future date. I was also informed on how to get a refund.

"After I received the call, I called all my friends (since I was the one who bought all our tickets) to inform them that the show has been canceled. My friends and I took the cancellation of the show lightly. But out of curiosity, at 8 p.m. I went to Massey Hall to check out what was happening. I found out that most of the Filipinos who bought the tickets were not informed of the cancellation since they bought the tickets from various selling agents. I was lucky to have been informed since I bought the tickets directly from Roy Thomson Hall. You should have seen the faces of the people who were very eager to see Regine perform.

"Some of the people had come from as far as Vancouver, New York, Michigan and other nearby US cities. I asked one of the assistants of Collabo Entertainment what happened. She told me that Regine's manager just canceled on the same day. They did not know about the cancellation until they checked with the airline and learned that Regine was not on the plane.

"We bought our tickets as early as May 15, 2002. I think we need a clarification. One of the assistants even told me that they were readying their case against Regine and her manager. They even told us to check the inside of the concert hall to see for ourselves that the stage was ready for the concert."—***Nelson Casalme***

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare-@yahoo.com

THE ALCASIDS

Another girl for Michelle and Ogie

By Leah Salterio

SHOW BIZ couple Ogie Alcasid and Michelle van Eimeren welcomed their second child, Sarah Kate, Monday night in Sydney, Australia.

Michelle, who was a former Miss Australia, gave birth at 7:56 p.m. (5:56 p.m. Manila time) at the Bowral District Hospital. She had a normal delivery.

The baby weighs 7.59 pounds (3.45 kgs.).

Michelle flew to Sydney last July, after promoting her children's book, "Butterfly," which comes with a video CD that contains an original song composed by her husband.

Ogie followed her only last Aug. 20 after fulfilling several show biz commitments

The couple's first child, Leila Isabel, is turning six in October.

Michelle's parents are based in Sydney, where she and Alcasid recently bought a house.

Ogie's manager, Leo Dominguez, told the INQUIRER that the singer-songwriter will return to the country on Sept. 20, to prepare for his major concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

After the Big Dome show, Ogie will promote his movie, "Best Man (For Better Not for Worse)," with comedian Michael V. for Maverick Films.

Ogie will return to Australia on Oct. 18 to perform in a show in Melbourne. He will fly again to Sydney so he and Michelle can celebrate their wedding anniversary on Oct. 26. Michelle will return to Manila in December. The couple plans to spend the yearend holidays in Manila.

Aliw names new head

CHARO YU is the new president of the Aliw Awards Foundation Inc., replacing Elizabeth Tagle-Sison.

This was announced by Aliw founding president and chair Alice R. Reyes.

Yu is the outgoing aliw treasurer.

The present Aliw board of directors is composed of Reyes, Tagle, immediate past president Leo Baluyut, vice president Cecile Alvarez, secretary Rema Manzano, and members Babes Encarnacion, Evelyn Mateo, Jose Mari Chan, public relations officer Resty Vergara, John Cenica, Tess Tumangan, and Tess Sanchez.

Yu is expected to constitute her new board soon.

The Aliw Awards Foundation marked its 25th year during its 15th annual Aliw Awards Night last Aug. 7.

Reyes has asked for Tagle's cooperation with the new president and called on the present board to respect her choice of Yu.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	JOLOGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GAMITAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	BOURNE IDENTITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SIGNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	HIGH RISK
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BAKAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE IDENTITY
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TAMPISAW / PHANTOM OF OPERA
ODEON	BOURNE IDENTITY
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING / LABRADOR
ROBEN	BAKAT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MAGINOO / MAGESTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	GAMITAN
REMAR	BAKAT
REMAR-2	GAMITAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKAT
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EIGASAI 2002: LIFE, LOVE & LAUGHTER
CINEMA-2	AUTIN POWERS GOLD MEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKAT
CINEMA-2	DERAILED
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIRIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-8	AUTIN POWERS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TRIPLE X
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SIGNS
CINEMA-12	HIGH RISK
CINEMA-14	HIGH EXPLOSIVES
CINEMA-15	JOLOGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	INSOMIA
CINEMA-2	SPIRIT
CINEMA-3	AUSTIN POWERS
CINEMA-4	TRIPLE-X
CINEMA-5	DERAILED
CINEMA-6	SIGNS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	CINEMA 2
BOURNE IDENTITY 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00 P13	SIGNS 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50 P13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 7 & 14, 2002 YO SEXBOMB 9:00PM
SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2002 70's 2DAY 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

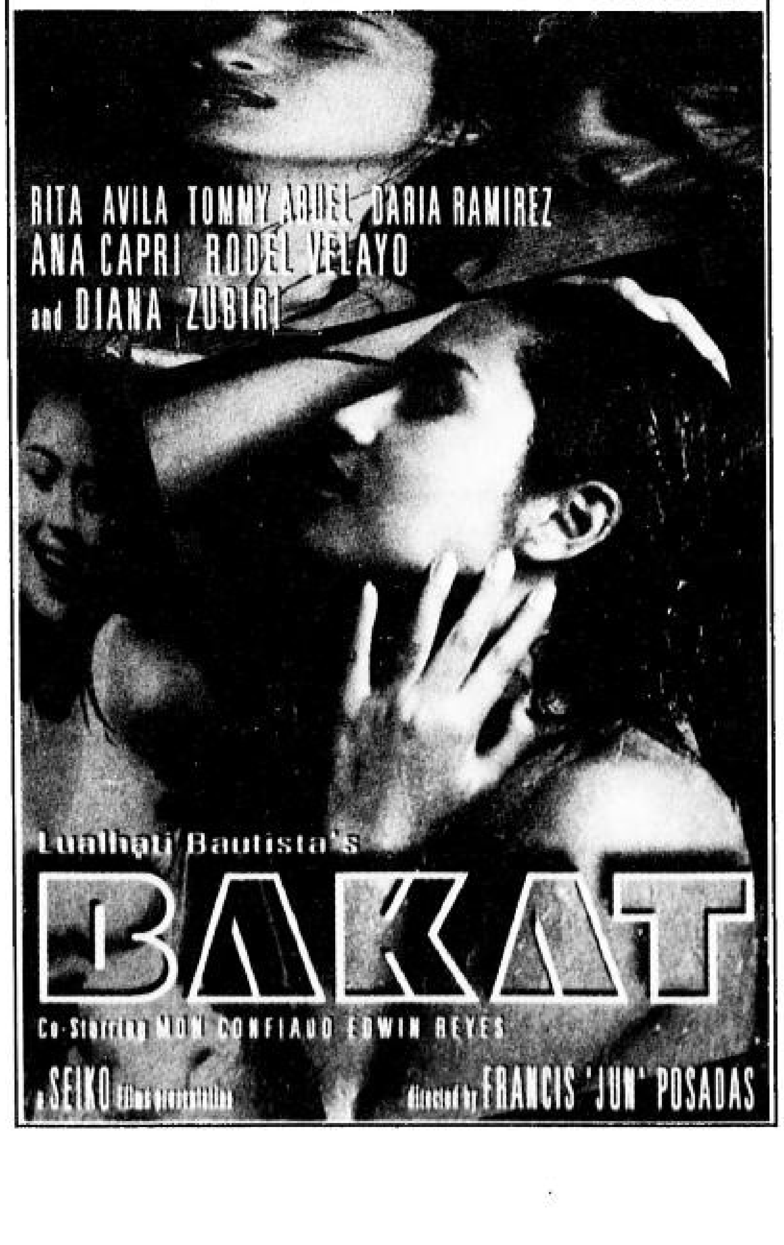
TRIPLE-X P13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	THE ROOKIE GP 1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30	AUSTIN POWERS P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35, 9:50
SIGNS P13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00	HIGH RISK P13 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	BOURNE IDENTITY P13 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SEE IN PERSON THE ATTRACTIVE STARS OF "BAKAT" DIANA ZUBIRI WITH RODEL VELAYO AT THE FOLLOWING THEATERS: SEPT. 5, THURS, TODAY
SM CITY BACOOR 1:00PM
SM SOUTHMALL 3:00PM
METROPOLIS ALABANG 4:00PM

OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

ANG KASAYSAYAN NG ISANG BABAENG NAWAWALA SA SARILI!

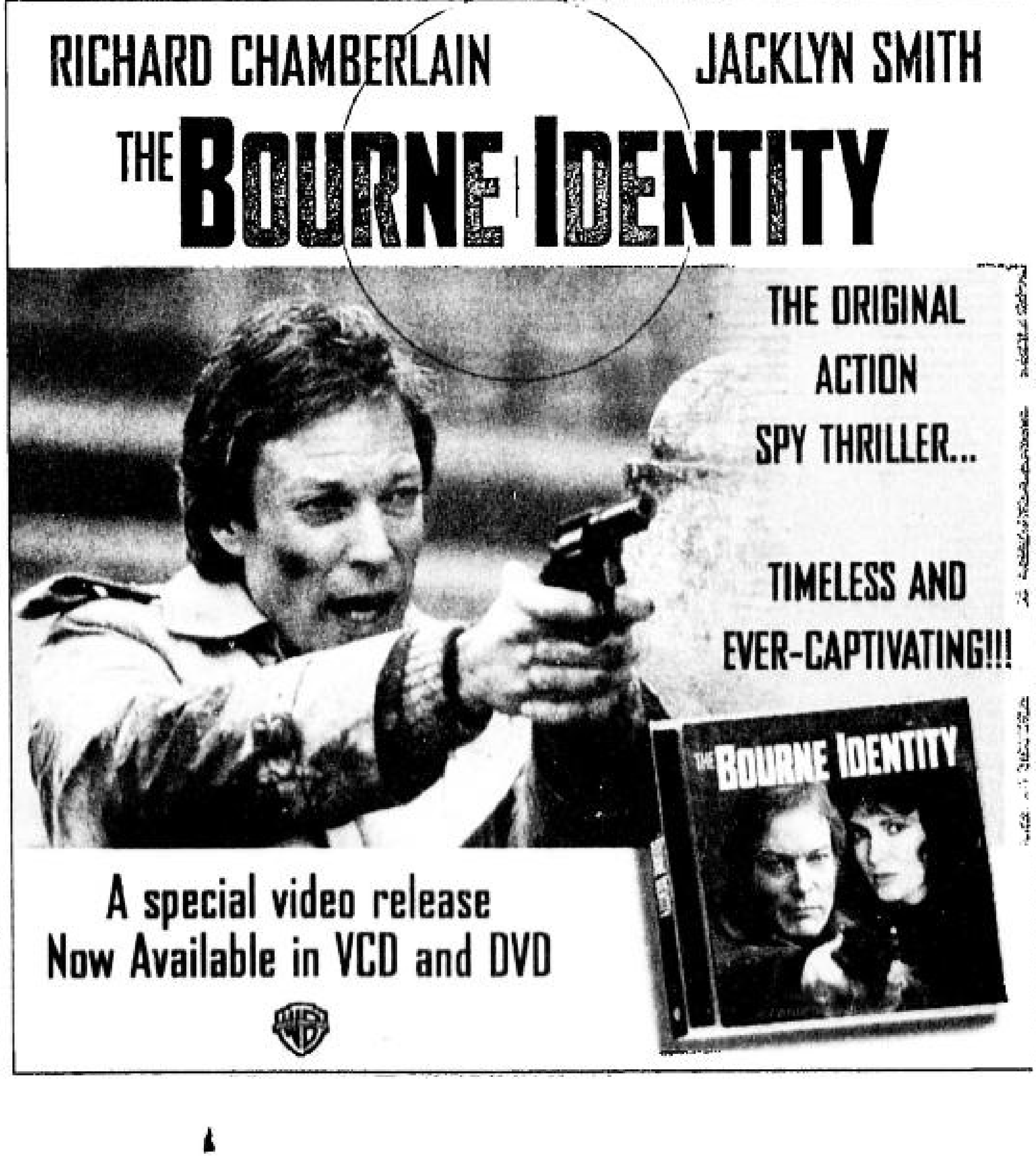

RITA AVILA TOMMY ABUEL DARIA RAMIREZ
ANA CAPRI RODEL VELAYO
and DIANA ZUBIRI
Lualhati Bautista's
BAKAT
Co-Starring MON CONFIADO EDWIN REYES
a SEIKO Films presentation
directed by FRANCIS 'JUN' POSADAS

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Maui Taylor
1st
LOVE
KISS
TIME
HIT
Gamitan
directed by QUARK HENARES
VIVA

FIRST PA RIN SA TAKILYA! NOW SHOWING!

NOW ON VIDEO!



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'Friends' older, wiser, funnier

Chemistry, teamwork, and good actors help make the series click

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

ABC 5, Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m.

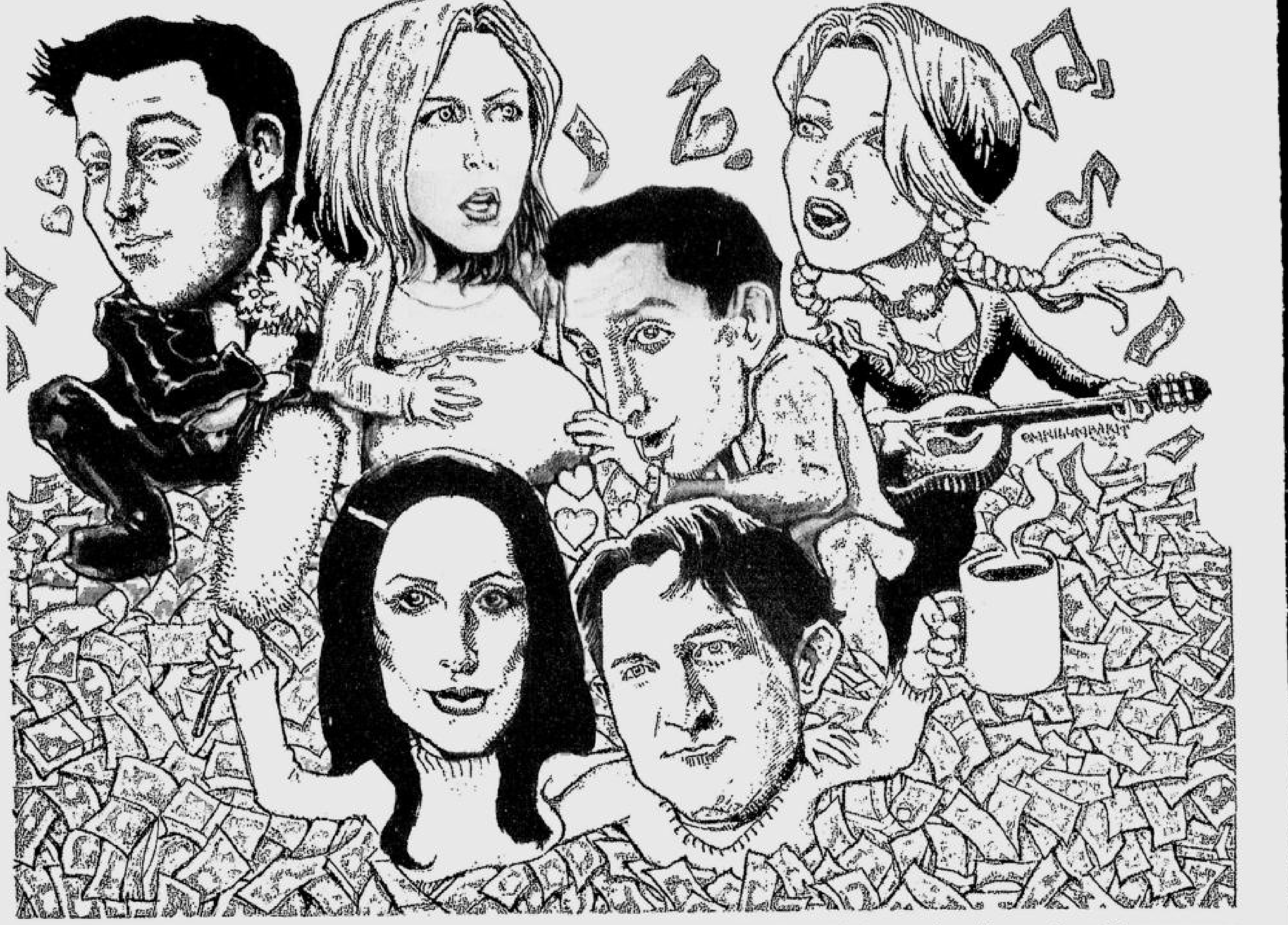
REVIEW

EARLIER this year, the six actors of the sitcom "Friends" were successful in negotiating a history-making salary increase. Each of them is getting paid a million dollars per episode for what's announced as their final season, which totals 24 episodes.

You do the math. Their offscreen friendship worked to their advantage, as the group sought a collective pay increase that illustrates the willingness of networks to keep their long-running moneymaking shows.

In recent years, the cast of "Seinfeld" and Tim Allen of "Home Improvement" were also offered sums of money to stay on in their shows, at a time when they were ready to pack up their ratings-dominating series permanently.

In the case of the "Friends" stars, it's debatable whether they truly deserve that much money, but every mere mortal couch potato like myself who follows the sitcom still enjoys the character-driven show almost eight years later.



White, beautiful

The sextet, composed of Ross (David Schwimmer), Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), Monica (Courteney Cox-Arquette), Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow), Joey (Matt LeBlanc) and Chandler (Matthew Perry) are highly pleasing thirtysomething New Yorkers whose relationships and occupational misadventures light up the small screen for half an hour every week. It used to air nightly over Star World, but following the end of Season 6, its 11 p.m. time slot has been taken over by "Frasier."

The newest episodes are currently being shown on Channel 5, with reruns every few weeks.

While the cast comes across at first as a bunch of beautiful white snobs with their petty problems blown out of proportion, the series isn't at all about portraying them as winners (at least not all the time). Each has a distinction or imperfection that makes the viewer relate to or admire their underdog status.

Well-written

Phoebe is an oddball talentless musician. Chandler's humor is a defense mechanism caused by a confused childhood. Monica is obsessed with cleanliness; her geeky brother Ross has had three failed marriages. Joey is the dumbass struggling soap actor. And Rachel is the pushover "vanilla" (safe and mediocre) girl.

The humor strongly relies on the adept writing and producing team of Marta Kauffman, Kevin Bright and David Crane. Whether it's Joey unintentionally bungling up a magazine interview, or Phoebe discovering that her twin sister Ursula is a porn star, the situations almost always work with the well-written scripts.

Add the fact that the actors are good, and not just at comedy. Kudrow and Aniston, for example, got critical acclaim for their performances in the dramas "Opposite of Sex" and "The Good Girl," respectively. And most of the time, episodes of the show are reportedly taped in front of live studio audiences, which is an immediate gauge if punchlines work or not.

> Why can't Pinoy sitcoms learn from its example? And by 'learn,' I don't mean 'rip it off'

Chemistry and teamwork are also factors that help make the series click.

Show stealers

A nice working environment obviously inspires them, since they've become close friends behind the scenes. But sometimes, the guest stars steal the show, like when Chandler's transsexual dad was finally introduced as a Vegas performer, played remarkably by Kathleen Turner. The scenes become funnier and the continuity much more appreciated.

Other celebs who've made memorable appearances are Denise Richards (as Ross' cousin to whom he's sexually attracted), Brad Pitt (a former fat kid Rachel picked on in school), Tom Selleck (Monica's dentist-lover), Alec Baldwin (Phoebe's overly nice crush), Reese Witherspoon (Rachel's bratty younger sister), and Kristin Davis (Joey's naive girlfriend).

Lack of diversity

The show, however, has faced criticism for not having any mainstay or recurring minority characters. It was joked in a Conan O'Brien sketch, "In the Year 2000," that a season finale of "Friends" will finally reveal that New York actually has some black people.

The lack of racial diversity prompted the guesting of African-American Gabrielle Union as the object of Ross' and Joey's affection. But that was just a single episode. Way back in one of the earlier seasons, Ross had an Asian girlfriend. Other than these two examples, minorities are pretty much relegated to the background.

Hopefully, they'll give a more realistic, diversified New York in the last season, without making them appear as token representatives.

A recent storyline, Rachel's pregnancy and decision to raise her child on her own attracted unwanted attention from religious groups abroad "for setting a bad example," blah-blah-blah. Talk about blurring the line between real and fictional role models.

Textbook guide

The show has done some risky and risque situations before (the lesbian wedding of Ross' ex-wife, among others), and double entendres aren't anything new. Sex and its consequences are just some of the many topics that the writers cover, since in a cutthroat ratings game, it's a must to catch people's attention with creativity. Otherwise, you get defeated by a certain reality show with people "stranded" on a godforsaken island, trying to win a million dollars (and not by friendship). But "Survivor" only beat "Friends" a few times last year, as the sitcom proved to be an antidote to the tiresome and boring reality game show.

Why can't Pinoy sitcoms learn from its example? And by "learn," I don't mean "rip it off." Why can't some of our local actors deliver their lines with a straight face? Locals make it seem like you're just watching a blooper reel where the actors are giggling and are almost breaking into laughter themselves.

"Friends" is such a textbook guide to sitcoms, proving that the simplest ideas can pay off with good writing and the right casting. Motivated by big money or not, it's still a beloved quality show that dares to push the outside of the sitcom envelope.

Beyond momentary wish-fulfillment

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, we caught the two "wish" shows, Channel 7's "Wish Ko Lang" and Channel 2's "Willingly Yours," to see how they were faring. We were surprised to see that the two shows, which started out with similar thrusts, had become different in a number of significant ways.

"Wish Ko Lang" granted a married couple's wish for a romantic second honeymoon, and its other features were similarly interesting, unique or cute. And the show kept stressing that it wanted to help, but not in a materialistic way.

On the other hand, the features on "Willingly Yours" were less cute and fanciful, but helpful on a less ephemeral level.

The feature that set the tone for the program as a whole was the one in which a former prostitute was reunited with her mother after many years. To make sure that they would have a fresh start in life, they were gifted with enough goods to start a small sari-sari store.

We found this thrust more to our liking, because it went beyond momentary cuteness, and helped the "wishers" on a more permanent basis.

We like the unique features on "Wish Ko Lang," but we find it sad that, after their cute or unusual wishes have been granted, the wishers pretty much go back to their old lives, most of which are pretty grim.

We think that a way can and be should be found to combine cuteness with more permanent help, especially if the wishers are impoverished. We're glad that "Willingly Yours" has taken steps in this more truly helpful direction, and we hope that "Wish Ko Lang" will see the light in the coming weeks.

We understand the show's decision to keep things light and "unmaterialistic," to make it more entertainment—and human interest-oriented, so that it doesn't come across as excessively serious. But we think a happy medium can be found between entertaining and really helping.

Besides, there's special significance when lives are turned around. This has an emotional power that goes beyond the charm and entertainment value of an all-expenses-paid second honeymoon, no matter how romantic it may momentarily appear to be.

'Simone'

RIGHT after coming on strong in "Insomnia," **Al Pacino** is following up with another unusual film, "Simone." He plays a filmmaker who tries to salvage his ruined career with a fantastic new actress of his own creation (the Simone in the movie's title).

Yes, Simone is a "virtual" star who doesn't exist in the flesh, but only in the pixels that Pacino's top-secret computer program conjures up on celluloid. The filmmaker is able to manipulate the public's credulity so brilliantly that everybody believes that a new superstar has indeed been discovered for the silver screen.

Is the Simone in **Andrew Niccol**'s new film really a virtual image? She looks a lot like supermodel **Rachel Roberts**, but there appears to be *some* "virtualization" involved in creating her screen image for this production.

Incidentally, Niccol also wrote the script for "The Truman Show," so "Simone" merely affirms his fascination with what's real and unreal on TV and in the movies.

"Simone" may be "just" a film, but it could be a sign of things to come. Animators and special effects people are getting so good at creating lifelike human characters on the big and small screen that some prognosticators say that it's only a matter of time before a convincingly "real" virtual actor's performance can be crafted for viewers to believe in and empathize with.

In fact, the day may come when big stars may not even have to act in new films. All they'll need to do is grant the rights to their screen persona to producers, who would then hire animators to create their forthcoming screen performances totally with pixels. Weird, huh?

Ega Sai 2002

ONGOING at Cinema 1 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall is Ega Sai 2002, a festival of contemporary Japanese films. The screening schedule:

Thursday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m., "Nodo Jiman." 5 p.m. "Adrenaline Drive." 8 p.m. "Nabbie's Love."

Friday, Sept. 6 at 2 p.m., "Osaka Monogatari." 5 p.m., "Nabbie's Love." 8 p.m., "Nodo Jiman."

Saturday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m., "Tomorrow." 5 p.m., "Nodo Jiman." 8 p.m., "Osaka Monogatari."

Sunday, Sept. 8 at 2 p.m., "Nabbie's Love." 5 p.m., "Tomorrow." 8 p.m., "Adrenaline Drive."

Admission is free. Call 811-6155 to 58

HOSTS Shawie and Izel entertain the opening audience.

Laughter at Giggles opening

GIGGLES, the newest comedy bar and live entertainment venue, had a successful star-studded opening last month.

Gracing the event were The Hunghunks, comedienne Beverly Salviejo, singer-actress Isabel Granada, actor-director Al Tantay, singer Von Arroyo, ABS-CBN teen star Angelene Aguilar and FM radio's popular morning team, Chico and Delamar of Monster Radio RX 93.1.

Mingling with the celebrity guests during the opening were members of the board of directors of Kayabe Corp., the company behind Giggles: president Maria Olivia Reyes, vice president Victor Reyes, corporate secretary Maria Elisa Bonifacio and treasurer Maria Cecilia de Guzman.

Guests marveled over Giggles' ultra-modern interiors and first-class audio and lighting systems. They were also treated to Giggles' Mediterranean-Continental-Filipino menu.

Giggles will have special performances such as the Sept. 16 launch of "Gigglers Inc., Laugh 'Til You Drop," featuring standup comics Gino, Arexu, Izel, Shawie, Chabbylyta and guests Dang Cruz, Patricia Ysmael and the Mix Dancers.

On Sept. 30, John Lapus performs in a special show.

Giggles is on Felix Avenue beside the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. It is open from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., Sundays to Thursdays; and from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

For details and reservations, call 682-2280 to 81.

130Yrs
World-class banking in the Philippines since 1872.
Standard Chartered

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

FREE
24hr. towing and roadside assistance
The Full Service Motorist Card

Moody's reaffirms RP's stable rating

By Clarissa S. Batino

MOODY'S Investors' Service yesterday said it plans to leave the Philippines' sovereign credit-rating outlook unchanged at stable despite a blowout in the budget deficit, the Department of Finance said.

Moody's country sovereign analyst Tom Byrne told Philippine economic officials that the credit-rating firm was more focused on the implications of a relapse in the government's performance in cutting spending and raising tax collections and gradually eliminating the deficit.

The Philippines' sovereign foreign currency rating is a notch below investment grade at Ba1.

Moody's had discussed the country's credit rating seven months after it restored the country's outlook to stable from negative. The widening budget deficit warranted a discussion from one of the top credit-rating firms.

The consensus for the meantime, Byrne said, was that the huge fiscal slippage has not posed an immediate threat to the current credit rating and for the stable outlook to be retained.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho conceded last week that the budget deficit for 2002 was unlikely to stay below the P130-billion target ceiling. However, he said he was confident the deficit would remain below 4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The seven-month to July deficit rose to P133 billion. In August, the deficit was believed to have increased by at least P7 billion, taking into account the continued shortfall in the collection of the BIR, which generated only P30.047 billion against a target of P37 billion.

The finance department said Moody's mentioned several reassuring factors in the economy, including the historically low levels of interest rates, and the prefunding of much of the 2002 deficit financing.

With these, Moody's noted that despite the slippage this year, the deficit-to-GDP ratio may only be 0.5-1.0 percentage points higher than programmed, placing the 2002 deficit broadly in line with the 2001 deficit, which is somewhere around 4 percent of GDP.

"We appreciate Moody's recognition of our current macroeconomic environment being supportive of our fiscal program. I am pleased that they have affirmed the government's position that indeed the deficit issue has been blown out of proportion in recent weeks," Camacho said.

Moody's, however, noted that the government will need to seriously address the relapse in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR's) performance.

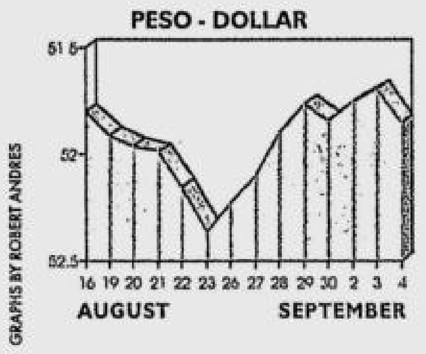
"I think it's a reminder that the national government must keep the goal of meeting a balanced budget in the medium term," said Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

"The government is committed to pursuing reforms at the BIR to

MOODY'S/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.845 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 4, 2002

¥ 117.62 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 4, 2002

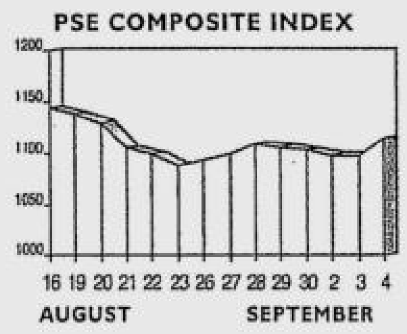
GOLD: $312.50/313.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 4, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end higher

SHARES ended higher yesterday as investors shrugged off weak sentiment in Asian markets following Wall Street's losses and took their cue from surprisingly strong July exports, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 15.87 points, or 1.4 percent, at 1,113.96, after Tuesday's 0.20-point loss.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"The export data was good news and it helped improve sentiment in the market today," said RCBC Securities research head Chelsea Dipasupil. "Hopefully it will be sustained for the rest of the year."

The government reported shortly before trading began yesterday that for the fourth straight month, Philippine exports posted double-digit growth in July. Exports climbed by a surprising 23 percent to $3.19 billion, buoyed by gains in electronics shipments.

Traders said yesterday's rally came as a surprise considering that shares were widely expected to follow the lead of Wall Street.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 4.1 percent, while the Nasdaq gave up 3.8 percent on Tuesday.

AP

July exports jump; recovery seen on track

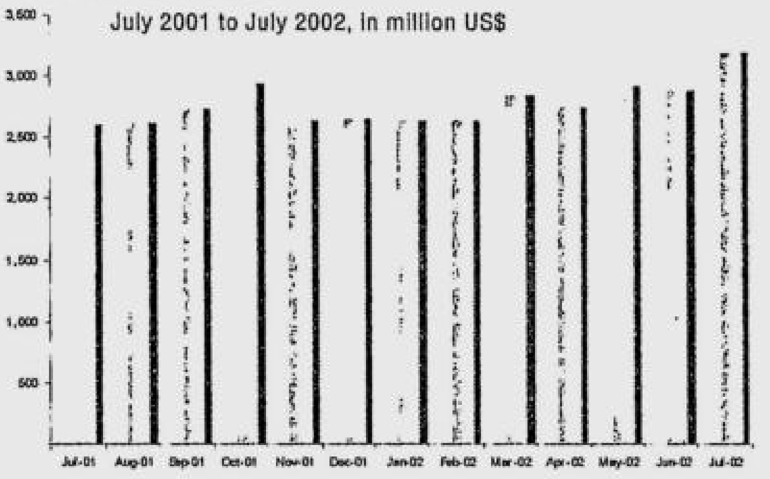
By Elena R. Torrijos

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports in July jumped 23 percent to $3.19 billion from $2.594 billion a year ago, confirming that the export sector was firmly recovering.

Data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) also showed that July was the fourth consecutive month of year-on-year increases after 15 months of declines. The level of exports in July was the highest in 18 months.

NSO data showed receipts from electronic components, accounting for 51.1 percent of the total export value for the month, rose by 34.6 percent to $1.629 billion from $1.21 billion last year.

TOTAL EXPORTS



The July figures brought the total exports for the first seven months of this year to $19.859 billion, or 6.9 percent more than the $18.582 billion recorded for the comparative period last year.

The government has forecast exports to grow by 4 percent this year after a contraction of 15.6 percent in 2001 while imports are expected to increase 6 percent year-on-year after a contraction of 5.8 percent in 2001.

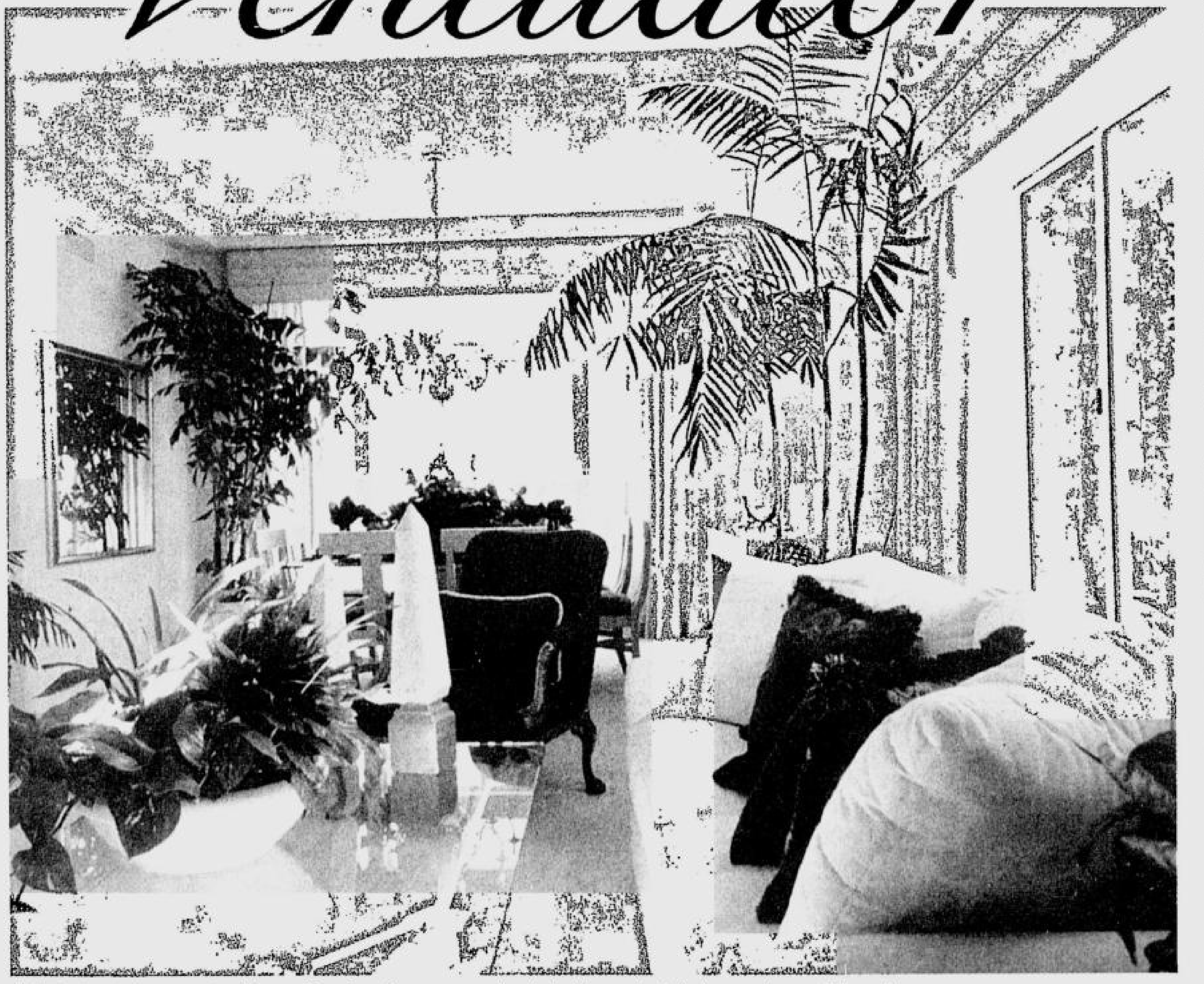
The second top earner, clothing and apparel, posted a minimal growth of 2.4 percent to $262 million while receipts from wiring sets in vehicles grew 45.5 percent to $62 million.

The United States, the country's biggest export market, accounted for $855.98 million of the exports or 10.3 percent higher than last year's.

Receipts from exports to Japan, the country's second largest trad-

JULY/ B2

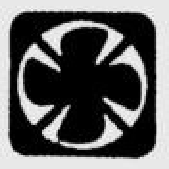
3D Ventilator



For clean, fresh air indoors.

When and where natural ventilation is absent or where heavy concentration of air pollutants is present, 3D Ventilator is your solution.

Ideal for hotels, homes, condominiums, offices, factories, restaurants, hospitals, laboratories, bakeries, warehouses, clinics and many more.

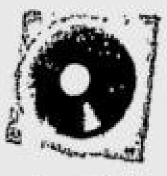


FA-50L FTA 50L

V-10Z/V-15Z

EX-20/25/30SH

FA-40 W & WO Shutter



E-20/25/30SH2

Manufactured by an ISO 9002 Certified Company, 3D Industries Inc.
Certification International
ISO 9002
CIP/1125/00/05/205

3D
For quality you can trust

FINANCING THE DEFICIT

Gov't to issue $200M in bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is set to go back to the foreign bond market this week to raise at least $200 million to finance a budget deficit that has already breached the full-year target of P130 billion.

A government source yesterday said that the Department of Finance had mandated ING Bank, as the sole bookrunner of the issue, to sell $200 million worth of five-year sovereign bonds

It was not clear whether the bonds would be sold in the United States where the government has a shelf registration for $1.2 billion worth of securities.

The bond float will raise the government's external borrowings this year to more than $1.9 billion, or 400 million more than the $1.5 billion that the government had programmed to raise from foreign sources.

The budget deficit reached P133 billion in July and analysts were expecting the gap to hit between P160 billion and P180 billion by the end of the year.

The government kept the deal under wraps so as not to alarm the local market, which had been trying to drive domestic interest rates up in anticipation of increases in government borrowings.

Economic managers have assured the market that the government would not tap the local market for additional funds to finance the deficit after it raised P63 billion from the issuance of three- and five-year retail bonds last June.

The proceeds from the retail bond float gave the government P50 billion in additional funding.

With the new borrowing, a source said the market had started doubting the ability of the government economic managers to contain the fiscal slippage.

The government raised $750 million from the 15-year global bond market in Janunry, $1 billion from the seven-year global bond market in March and $300 million from the seven-year market in June.

Of the total amount, $750 million was relent to National Power Corp., leaving the government with $1.3 billion.

AUB offering to buy branches of First e-Bank

ASIA United Bank, controlled by Republic Biscuit Corp. of businessman Jacinto Ng, is planning to acquire the branches of First e-Bank of the Metro Pacific Group in line with its expansion plans.

Manuel Gomez, executive vice president of AUB, said the bank wanted to increase its branch network from 26 to 60 in the next three years.

"We submitted our bid for the branches of First e-Bank in May but we have not received yet any word from the PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.). If we don't get it, we will simply buy branches from other banks," said the official in yesterday's media briefing.

Aside from First e-Bank's 60 branches, AUB said it was also keen on the substantial retail deposit base of Metro Pacific's savings bank. First e-Bank boasts of about 90,000 small and medium depositors.

A medium-sized bank, AUB registered a return-on-equity ratio of 21 percent as of the second quarter, the highest posted by a local commercial bank. The bank has an 18-percent capital adequacy ratio and a non-performing loans ratio of 7 percent.

AUB said it was expecting to post P450-P500 million in net profit this year from P187 million last year. As of August, the bank registered some P375 million in profit. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PLDT obtains $145-M loan

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has secured a $145-million multi-currency term loan that will address a significant portion of its maturing loans next year.

BNP Paribas, Citigroup, ING Bank NV and Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd., the joint arrangers of the loan, said the deal was signed yesterday.

The facility is composed of 10.914 billion in yen loan (about $92 million) and a dollar component worth $53.3 million to be drawn in June and December next year, they said.

The 10 lenders that participated in the loan syndication were Banco de Oro Universal Bank, United Overseas Bank Philippines, The International Commercial Bank of China, United World Chinese Commercial Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Credit Lyonnais, Chinatrust (Phil.) Commercial Bank Corp., Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale and Equitable PCI Bank.

This facility is payable in six equal semi-annual installments beginning June 2004 with its final maturity on December 2006.

Interest rates are placed at six-month yen-Libor (London Inter-bank Offered Rates) plus a 385-basis point spread for the yen component and six-month dollar-Libor plus a 365-basis point spread for the dollar component.

The deal was oversubscribed and raised from $130 million to $145 million, said officials of PLDT.

Even prior to the launching of the loan syndication, the lead arrangers had already committed around two-thirds of the total amount.

"We are encouraged by the support given to PLDT by our various creditors as we worked on completing our liability management initiatives. We believe that this is an affirmation by our lenders that the fundamentals of our business remain strong," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in a statement yesterday.

The $145-million loan facility is "the last key component of PLDT's liability management program," which aims to improve the balance between its cash flows and debt servicing requirements from this year to 2004. ***With a report from Reuters***

IPR law enforcement still the big issue in RP, says Microsoft exec

By Raul C. Dancel

ENFORCEMENT of anti-piracy laws remains a "broad" issue in the Philippines that, if not addressed, will continue to eat into the bottom line of technology companies operating here, the head of Microsoft Corp.'s Asia-Pacific operations said yesterday.

"(The Philippine government) is very, very clear in terms of its stance on the issue. It's clear in terms of the strengths of the laws. What tends to be more of an issue is on the enforcement side, and that's a broad issue that we see throughout the region," Microsoft president for Asia-Pacific and Japan Michael Rawding said in a news conference.

The Business Software Alliance, a software piracy watchdog, has reported that at least three out of five computers in the Philippines were loaded with pirated software, making the country the seventh worst violator of intellectual property rights in the region.

The BSA report showed that the Philippines had a piracy rate last year of 61 percent, ranked behind Vietnam, which had the highest piracy rate of 97 percent, followed by China, 94 percent; Indonesia, 89 percent; Pakistan, 83 percent; Thailand, 79 percent; and, Malaysia, 66 percent.

The rate of piracy in the Philippines, according to the study, translates to a loss of $27.091 million in the software industry's retail revenue, out of $4.08 billion in the entire region.

The study, however, noted that the piracy rate in the country has been steadily dropping since 1996 when it hit the peak of 92 percent.

BSA is a non-profit organization based in Washington DC that represents the world's leading software developers.

Microsoft has been working closely with the government on a program to educate judges and state prosecutors on recently approved laws protecting intellectual property rights.

"The fundamental driver for most governments around the region in terms of intellectual property is the recognition that without intellectual property, it will be very hard to develop local industries, software in particular," Rawding said.

NDC seeks tax break for ₱7-B bond float

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Development Co. is rushing to float P7 billion worth of IOUs next month to avail itself of the prevailing low interest rates.

Trade and Industry Secretary and NDC chair Manuel A. Roxas II said the state investment arm was still haggling to get the tax-exempt status accorded to the first set of NDC bonds, dubbed the Erap bonds, issued in 1999.

Interest rates are expected to climb soon in the face of a ballooning budget shortfall, which could hit P180 billion this year or P50 billion over the P130-billion deficit target.

Roxas said the biggest chunk of the bonds' proceeds or P5 billion would be used to refinance the first batch of NDC's IOUs that were due to mature in 2004.

The new batch of NDC bonds will have a longer maturity period of seven years compared to the maiden offering's five-year maturity. These funds are being farmed out by the NDC to government financial institutions for relending to agriculture projects and small and medium enterprises. The remaining P2 billion will be used for housing and agrarian reform programs.

NDC was forced to re-allocate the bulk of the P5 billion worth of Erap bonds to other government financial institutions for relending not because of the lack of promising projects but because of the rigid guidelines governing the disbursement of these funds.

The Erap bonds were originally meant for minority investments in agriculture projects but the NDC had to change tactic midstream because of its lack of expertise in picking suitable projects and the limited time frame to generate the desired returns.

Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a resolution was promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following case on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
4756 (Resolution)	Philippine Shipping Exchange Inc. vs. Restituto Sune, The Heirs of the late Amalia Arguelles and Department of Agrarian Reform	March 15, 2002

Counsels and parties to this case, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
4756	Atty. Darril P. Venus	2nd Floor, City Agriculturist Bldg., Aduana St., Iloilo City
	The President/Manager Philippine Shipping Exchange Inc.	Quezon City, Manila
	The Manager Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp.	Brgy. Buhang Jaro Iloilo City

are hereby advised to get a copy of the resolution from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on this case shall become final and executory.

September 2, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

September 5 & 12, 2002 – Inquirer

July exports jump . . .

From page B1

ing partner, also grew 14.2 percent to $454.43 million.

Last week, the government reported that the economy grew 4.5 percent in the second quarter, its fastest pace in five years, powered by rising manufacturing output.

The government said a 20-percent surge in semiconductor exports in the second quarter, after five consecutive quarters of negative growth, highlighted the sparkling growth performance.

However, analysts have said the surprising robust performance would be hard to sustain, clouded by concerns about an economic recovery in the United States and the expected recurrence of drought in the fourth quarter.

"It (stronger exports) could help the government achieve its target growth of 4-4.5 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2002, to offset weakness in agriculture," said AB Capital's economic analyst Jose Vistan.

"It's a little better than we or anybody else had been forecasting," said David Cohen, an economist at MMS/S&P in Singapore.

With a report from Reuters

Moody's reaffirms . . .

From page B1

improve revenue collections," Camacho said.

"We would like to reassure them that this year's trend at the BIR merely reflects a lag in realizing the benefits of our administrative reforms and not a reversal of our direction. We will forge ahead and our confidence is bolstered by the entry of Commissioner Guillermo Parayno."

Camacho added that the mandate of the new BIR chief was "to ensure the effective implementation and further enhancement of these measures, with the least amount of resistance from the bureaucracy."

The BIR is implementing administrative reform measures and pursuant to EO 114, the BIR will also be restructured into a taxpayer-focused organization by January 2003. *With a report from AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, September 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	138,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	45.5	43.5	45.5	3,122,900
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	10,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	560,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33.5	33	33.5	941,100
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	700
Security Bank Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	13	11,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	17,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1160	1160	1160	1160	560
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	895	895	895	510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	24.75	23.25	24.75	25,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	1,440,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	485	487.5	485	485	3,220
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.034	0.031	0.034	10,400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.028	0.025	0.028	7,500,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	120,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	277.5	287.5	277.5	285	141,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	19	18.25	18.75	15,300
Manila Electric Co. B	30	32	30	31	583,600
Petron Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	3,674,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	266,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.58	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	63,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	550,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.1	2.1	160,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	718,700
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48.5	49	95,900
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51.5	52	279,100
Universal Robina Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	901,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	4,055,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	25,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	490,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	8,690,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	2,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	3,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13	13.5	13	13	369,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	440,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,600,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	50,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	300,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	1,110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	150,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	2,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	400,000
Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23	25	23	25	794,200
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.7	5,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.16	6,110,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.94	270,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5,472,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	60,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	3,870,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	120,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	130,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,806,570	191,393,530.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	47,389,860	151,098,850.00
PRO	20,272,000	72,118,840.00
Mining	5,030,000	1,724,500.00
OIL	135,130,000	384,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	212,628,430	416,720,220.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	442.75	UP 13.73
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,530.02	UP 12.25
PRO	510.75	UP 4.10
Mining	1,144.12	UP 0.88
OIL	1.39	UP 0.05
All Shares Index	629.18	DOWN 0.88
Composite	1,113.96	UP 15.87

NO. OF ADVANCES: 30; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 83, NO. OF TRADES: 1,743

DISCLOSURES

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. confirmed news reports that it was expecting its 2002 net income to be lower than the 2001 level mainly due to the decline in advertising revenues and higher depreciation expenses.

* * *

FORUM Pacific Inc. said it had no knowledge of any information that may have affected the value and trading of its shares on Sept. 3.

* * *

A BROWN Co. Inc. bought 20,000 of its own shares at 46 centavos per share last Sept. 3.

* * *

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc. disclosed that **Philratings** had upgraded from PRS 2 plus to PRS 1 minus its rating on PCILF's capability to pay its proposed P250 million worth of short-term commercial papers. *Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

Sept. 4, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.002707	1.000000	51.7410
Japan	Yen	0.008567	0.008544	0.4421
United Kingdom	Pound	1.568836	1.564600	80.9540
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128554	0.128207	6.6336
Switzerland	Franc	0.681836	0.679995	35.1836
Canada	Dollar	0.645575	0.643832	33.3125
Singapore	Dollar	0.574453	0.572902	29.6425
Australia	Dollar	0.548377	0.546896	28.2969
Bahrain	Dinar	2.660407	2.653224	137.2805
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.267374	0.266652	13.7968
Brunei	Dollar	0.572812	0.571265	29.5578
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000113	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023789	0.023725	1.2276
UAE	Dirham	0.273031	0.272294	14.0888
Korea	Won	0.000842	0.000840	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.997300	51.6013
Argentina	Real	0.277758	0.277008	14.3327
Brazil	Real	0.323767	0.322893	16.7068
Denmark	Kroner	0.134637	0.134273	6.9474
India	Rupee	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.0690
Malaysia	Ringgit	[illegible]	[illegible]	13.6179
Mexico	New Peso	0.100090	0.099820	5.1648
New Zealand	Dollar	0.469169	0.467902	24.2097
Norway	Kron	0.134132	0.133770	6.9214
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016938	0.016892	0.8740
South Africa	Rand	0.093620	0.093367	4.8309
Sweden	Kroner	0.107115	0.106826	5.5273
Syria	Pound	0.029293	0.022624	1.1706
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029293	0.029214	1.5116
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000710	0.000708	0.0366

metrobank @40
Ruby Anniversary

Pres. & Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal
Inaugurating Metrobank, 1962

Employees of the First Provincial Branch
Metrobank Davao, 1967

First Metrobank Head Office
Wellington Building in Binondo
1962

First Philippine Bank in Taiwan
Metrobank Taipei, 1970

First Philippine Bank in Japan
Metrobank Tokyo, 1996

GT Tower International
Metrobank Ayala Avenue Center
2000

First Philippine Bank in China
Metrobank Shanghai, 2001

Metrobank E.T., The Country's First Talking ATM, 1990
Metrophone Banking, 1996
Metrobank Mobile Banking, 2001
Metrobank E.T. International Card, 2001
Metrobankdirect Internet Banking, 2002

Metrobank New York, 1979

40 years of keeping you in good hands.

The Banker

Bank of the Year 2002

The Banker of London: the trusted source of global financial intelligence.

From its first office in Binondo to the glistening edifice that is GT Tower. Everything that Metrobank embodies today was spun from the vision of its founder, Mr. George S.K. Ty. He conceived a bank that continues to be an accelerator for national development, successfully fulfilling its role as the country's premiere window to global opportunities.

Today, Metrobank continues to pursue the vision of its founder, ultimately rising above all other banks to win the **Bank of the Year 2002** award from *The Banker*, a prestigious international magazine published in London.

For your continued trust and support, THANK YOU. As Metrobank faces the challenges to come, it shall remain steadfast in its commitment to always keep you in good hands.

Mr. George S.K. Ty
Founder and Chairman of Metrobank

You're in good hands with METROBANK
The Country's No.1 Bank

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices, and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: www.metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.

A proud member of BancNet

Metrobank Foundation Inc.

SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHERS 2002

The teacher who remains unforgettable

Metrobank Foundation Inc. has for 17 years bestowed honor upon the teaching profession by rewarding teachers devoting their lives to the development of the youth

EACH one of us has in our lifetime encountered an unforgettable teacher who, aside from our families and friends, has enriched our lives within and outside the classrooms.

Our capacity to care for one another, our concern for country and the environment, our continuous hunger for learning and improvement, and that overall desire to be a good and useful citizen of the world. That unforgettable teacher may have had something to do with our good sides.

He or she may be the grade school teacher who helped us hurdle our fear of Math. He or she may be the high school teacher who inspired us and prodded us to pursue Art and Culture. He or she may be the college professor who earnestly taught us the meaning of life through Literature and History. The world of great and many possibilities, the teacher helped open for us.

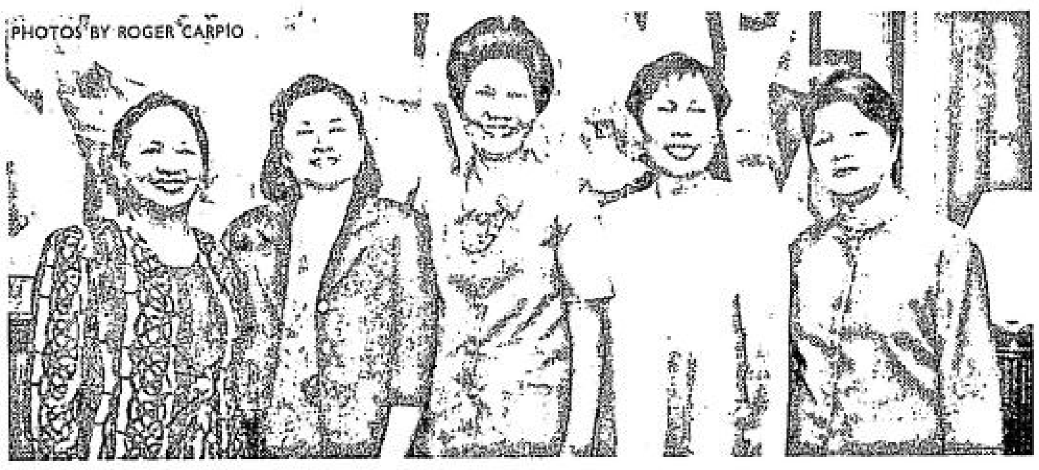
How do we repay them?

Metrobank Foundation Inc. has for 17 years bestowed honor upon the teaching profession by rewarding teachers who devote their lives to the development of the youth through exemplary competence and dedication, and who best serve as models of excellence.

Thus far, the foundation has awarded 202 teachers from elementary, high school, technical-vocational, and college, from private and public schools all over the country.

The annual Search for Outstanding Teachers is undertaken by the foundation in partnership with the Department of Education and the Commission of Higher Education.

As the Search invitation says—"outstanding teachers are like the biblical treasure hidden in the field"—so here they are: the 12 treasures of the teaching profession.



PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

FROM left, Agapita A. Nery, Tanauan City; Gloria G. Tutica, Roxas City; Norma B. Ubaldo, Batangas City; Victoria M. Francisco, Zamboanga City and Ruth A. Larracas, Tondo, Manila.

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Emulating the greatest teacher of all

JUST like the teachers that we know, Norma B. Ubald has had her own share of memorable experiences. But one of them changed her as a teacher. Through it, she was not only able to transform the attitude of a young pupil, she also learned that for her to be an effective teacher, she must be sensitive to their needs.

Norma, or Norms to colleagues and friends, teaches English to Grade V pupils at the Batangas City East Elementary School. She remembers how her pupil Laurence, whom she describes as troublesome and who loves to cut classes and absent himself, bravely answered the question she posed which put the whole class in complete silence. Expectedly, the class roared with laughter with his reply. Inquiring further why he responded that way, it turned out that he was right. And all she could do was to ask the class to give Laurence a round of applause.

"I knew everybody was proud of Laurence and since then everything changed. Laurence became very happy, confident and cooperative and never again did he give me and the class any trouble," relates Norma.

Out of that experience she later decided to ask her principal to get her out as adviser of the star section and instead assign her to the slow ones where she has been with to date.

"I realized then that the evocative approach is a very effective approach in teaching. The teacher should encourage pupils to freely express their inner thoughts even if it may mean longer time," she explains.

Norma is proud that she's a teacher for she has embraced the noblest profession of the greatest teacher on earth—Jesus Christ.

As a teacher who belongs to the world of academe, she looks at herself as God's instrument in making Philippine education function for the salvation of the Filipino youth and mankind in Jesus Christ.

Aware that her mission involves the young with body and soul, she makes her teaching and learning activities creative enough to contribute to their total development. She believes that learners entrusted to her care are created unto God's image and likeness and as such, they possess inherent goodness. Trusting in this goodness, she exerts selfless efforts to make her pupils all that is possible for them to become. She strives to develop in them an attitude of permanent interest in learning, as well as in understanding the purpose of their learning.

Now 38 years in the teaching profession, she says that she feels fulfillment whenever a former pupil comes back to her saying, "Ma'am, much of my success, I owe to you! That seed of creative learning and working you've implanted in me made all the difference in my student life." ***Joel V. Nigos***

Beyond the classroom

GLORIA G. Tutica recalls giving the naughtiest "Dennis the Menace" in her class an ultimatum. She didn't really mean it but she said it just the same—"Sherwin, I won't accept you in my class anymore unless you promise me that you'll not make a mess and you'll never bug our class intern again. Do you hear me?"

To which Sherwin quickly replied, "Ma'am *di ba karapatan ko ang mag-aral*?"

With that answer, Gloria recalls how the class laughed in unison, and she just accepted that as one of the many challenges (read: headaches) in a teacher's everyday life.

Now, 33 years in the profession, she says she doesn't have any regrets. She considers teaching as her vocation and her mission in life. She "lives to teach."

She has always been referred to as a workaholic because of her dedication to her profession. But for her, she is not a workaholic; she says she just loves and enjoys her work as a teacher.

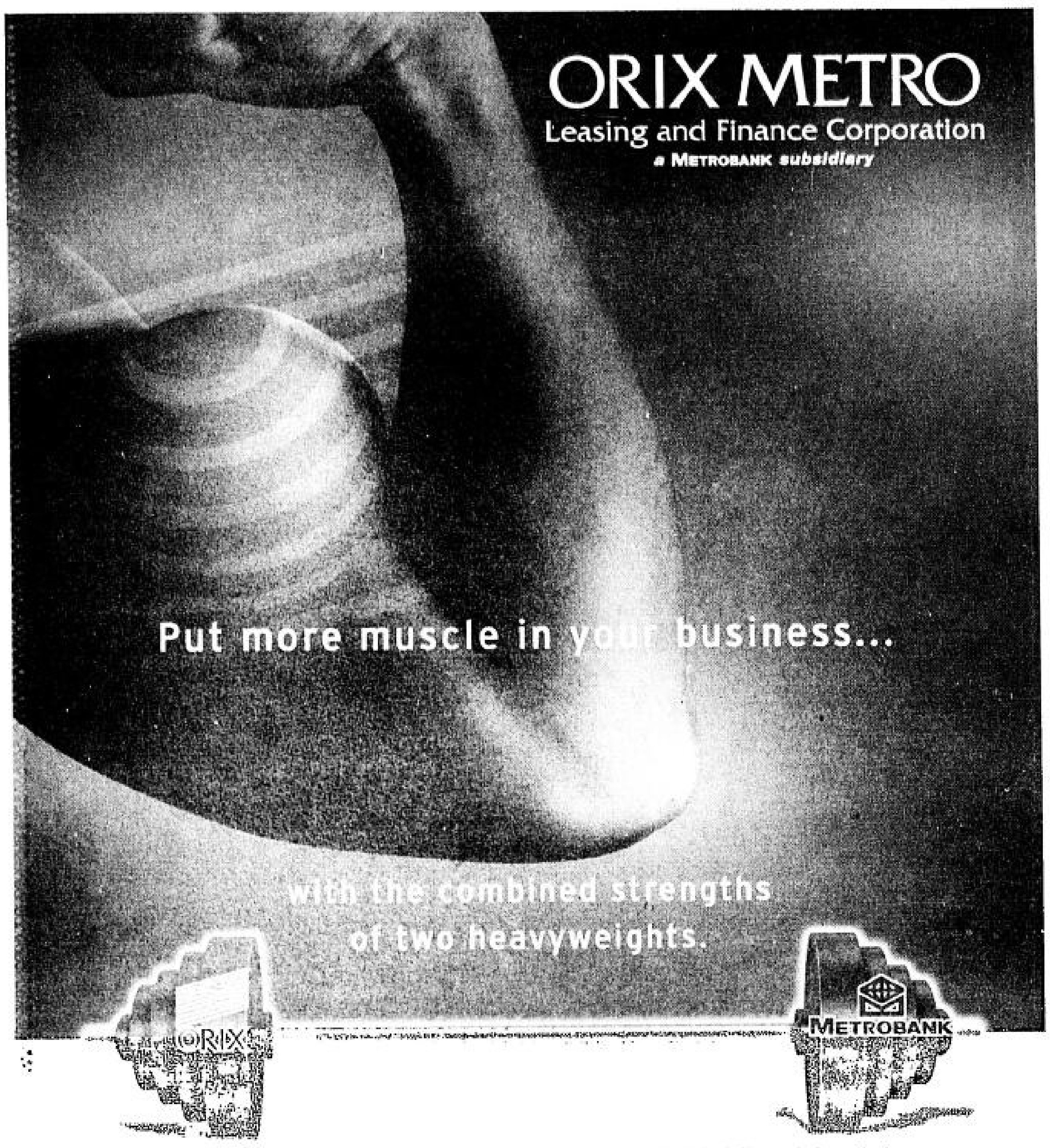
Inday, or Glo to those who know her, she teaches Grade III pupils at the President Manuel A. Roxas Memorial School North in Roxas City. She says that the joy of service and the love of children keep her going despite the many trials attached to the profession.

Gloria considers her greatest contribution to education as those learned beyond the confines of the four walls of the classroom.

"To go beyond the duties as educators evoke greater challenges to the point of being more involved with our pupils on a more personal level. I should be able to train my pupils to become self-sufficient, independent, responsive, interactive, competitive so that they can cope with life in and out of the school," she says.

Asked why she chose teaching as her career and what made her stay in her profession, she says, "Teaching gave me the opportunity to be myself, to understand that learning is a continuous process. It also opened the doors for me to explore the unexplored, to simplify complicated things for the children to clearly comprehend."

Joel V. Nigos


ORIX METRO
Leasing and Finance Corporation
a METROBANK subsidiary
Put more muscle in your business...
with the combined strengths
of two heavyweights.
ORIX
METROBANK

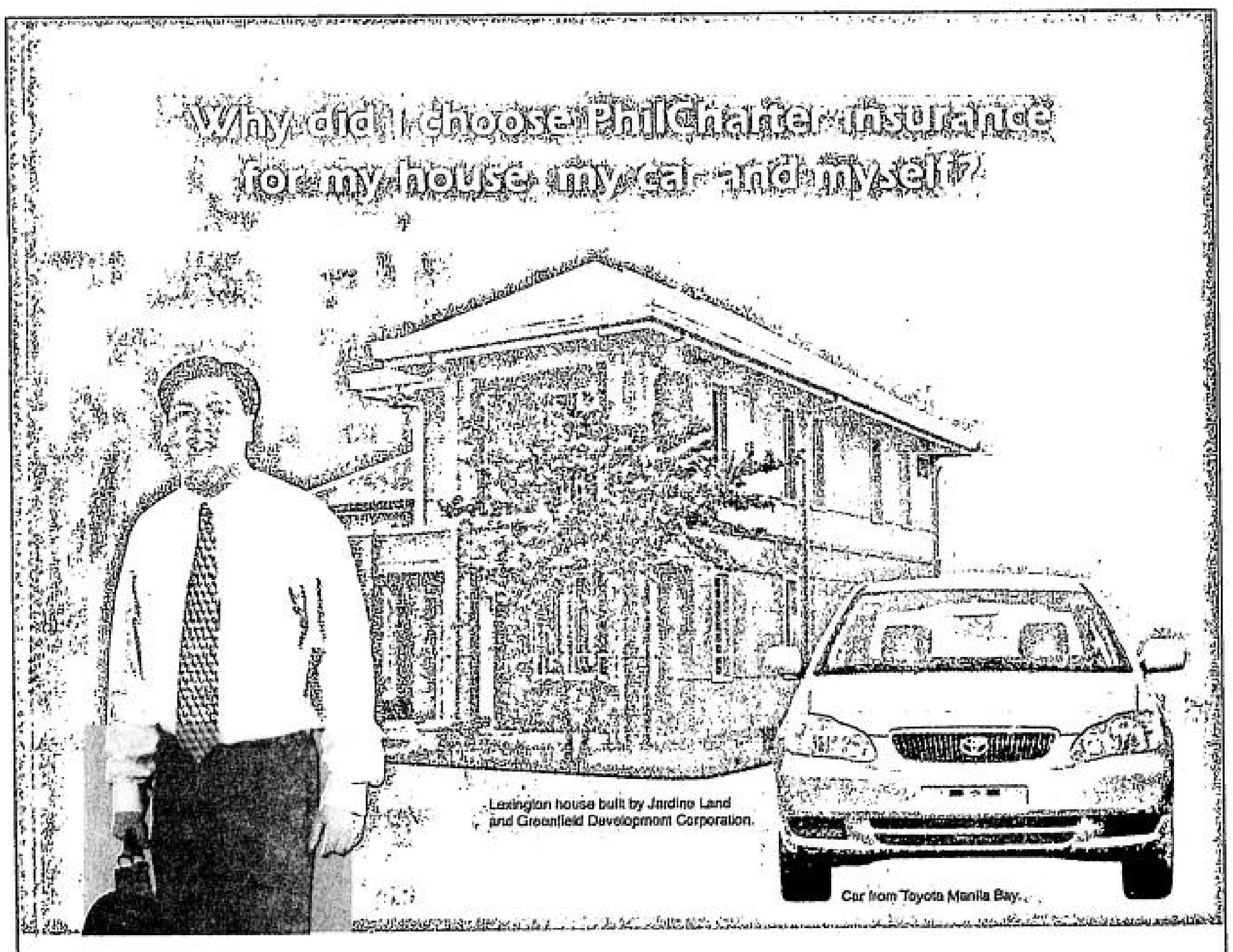
ORIX METRO is all set to put your business in top shape. A solid partnership of Metrobank, the country's no. 1 bank, and ORIX Corporation, Japan's leading leasing firm, ORIX METRO secures your lease and finance needs.
Let our fast, efficient and personalized service bring power to your business.
Get bigger packages from ORIX METRO branches, or the close to 800 branches of Metrobank Group nationwide.

ORIX

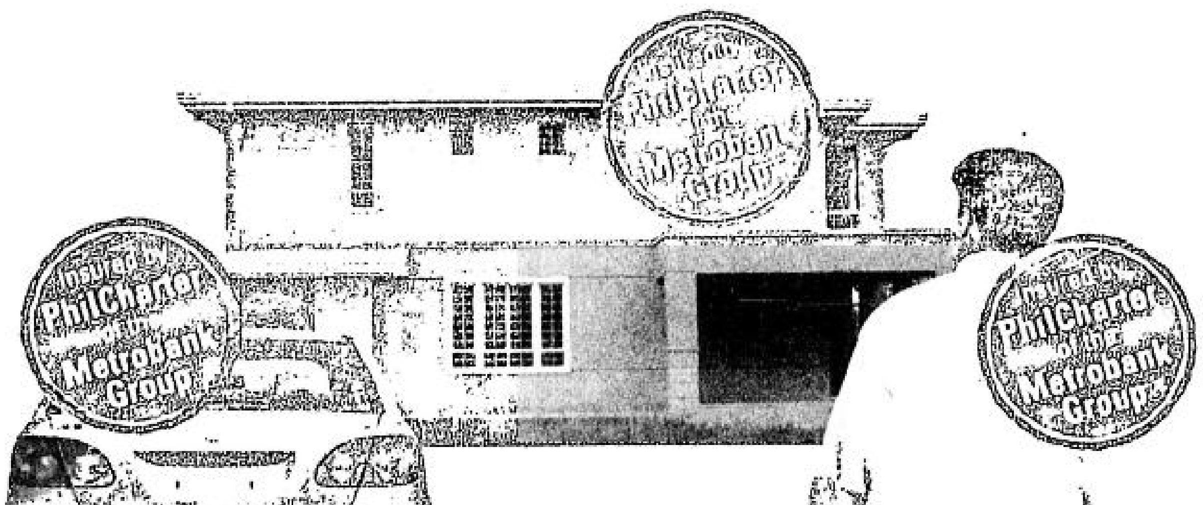
ORIX METRO BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

MAIN OFFICE: 21st Floor, GT Tower International, Ayala Ave. cor. H.V. dela Costa St., 1227 Makati City; Tel. Nos. 858-8888, 858-8801 to 22, 858-8830 **LUZON: Calamba Branch:** 2nd Floor Anderson I Bldg., National Highway, Parian, Calamba, Tel. Nos. (049) 545-5658, (049) 545-9560, (049) 545-9577 **Dagupan Branch:** Guanzon Building, Perez Boulevard, 2400 Dagupan City; Tel. Nos. (075) 522-4155, (075) 515-3421 • **Isabela Branch:** City Road Dubinan East, Santiago City, Isabela, Tel Nos. (078) 682-6828, (078) 682-7072 **VISAYAS: Cebu Branch:** 6th Floor, Unit 2C Metrobank Plaza, Osmeña Boulevard, 6000 Cebu City; Tel. Nos. (032) 253-7009, (032) 253-7275 • **Bacolod Branch:** Metrobank 6th Street Branch, 6th Street Lacson, 6100 Bacolod City; Tel. Nos. (034) 433-0929, (034) 433-0941 **MINDANAO: Cagayan de Oro Branch:** 2nd Floor, Metrobank Divisoria Park Branch, Abejuela cor. Pabayo Streets, 9000, Cagayan de Oro City, Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2014, (08822) 726-208 • **General Santos Branch:** 2nd Floor, Metrobank Bldg., P. Acharon Boulevard, 9500 General Santos City; Tel. (083) 553-7040 • **Davao Branch:** 7th Floor, Metrobank Davao Center, Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, 8000 Davao City; Tel. Nos. (082) 222-0657, (082) 221-7658

ORIX METRO
Leasing and Finance Corporation
The Strength to Lead
a METROBANK subsidiary


Why did I choose PhilCharter insurance for my house, my car and myself?
Lexington house built by Jardine Land and Greenfield Development Corporation.
Car from Toyota Manila Bay.

PhilCharter is a member of the Metrobank Group.
I know I'm backed by the best."



Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation (PhilCharter) is one of the top ten non-life insurance companies in terms of premium production. Formed in 1960, PhilCharter is majority owned by the big, continuously expanding Metrobank Group. Your PhilCharter insurance policy is your best security. PhilCharter offers fire, motor car, marine cargo, personal accident, bonds, casualty and engineering insurance in 18 branches nationwide.

PhilCharter
Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation
MEMBER METROBANK GROUP

The insurance company you can bank on.

Skyland Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 844-7044 / 844-7081 to 85
Fax Nos. 815-4797 / 843-2004
E-mail: customerservice@philcharter.com.ph

Finding fulfillment

AGAPITA A. Nery came from very humble beginnings, but right then she was already convinced that her poverty should not hinder her in pursuing her dreams.

"I sold rice cakes in the market on weekends earlier on in my life," recalls Tita, as she is fondly called. She says her earnings from it helped her obtain a college degree.

With her pupils mostly coming from poor families, she encourages them to study hard by sharing with them her story. She tells them that education is the only way they can make their lives better.

Tita, who teaches Grade VI pupils at Tanauan South Central School in Tanauan City, Batangas, believes that teaching is the noblest of all professions.

"Engineers, doctors, lawyers, scientists and successful businessmen were once under a teacher's care," she stresses. She points out that Jesus Christ was also a teacher, making Him her model as she goes through her profession.

Now 33 years as a teacher, she says many have persuaded her to join the administrator group but she always turned them down.

"I am a teacher and I will die a teacher," she says. "The satisfaction teaching gives me cannot compare with the most precious gems the world has to offer. The pains and efforts in making the poorest of my pupils learn gives me hope that God will not fail me in doing so. Teaching is my life," she says.

She adds that teaching builds towers in the hearts of people and contributes to the nation's progress.

Asked about what fuels her to continue teaching despite its challenges, she says, "My main source of fulfillment is to see my pupils graduate, pursue studies and land good jobs. It satisfies me to know that they have become part of a well-enlightened citizenry, capable of using the skills they learned in school in solving everyday problems with ease and tact. I'm happy knowing that I have led them to the path toward excellence in all aspects of human behavior—their mental, physical, socio-cultural, political, economic and spiritual well-being."

She firmly believes that God, to whom she owes everything, will continue to bless her cause and give her the strength and the courage to persevere up to the end. ***Joel V. Nigos***

Weaving dreams, shaping realities

SHE never gave up. She went on to fulfill her dream and that dream is now giving her honor and pride. For 27 years, Victoria Mendoza-Francisco has changed so many lives, and helped her pupils shape their own future.

On her second year in college, Victoria's father died. Leaving her with no choice but to support herself through college. "Poverty is not a hindrance to success," she says. Now 55, she always knew she would become a teacher. Though teaching is one of the most tedious jobs, she stayed on because for her, this profession is incomparable. "Incomparable in the sense that a teacher gets a chance to see the progress of his or her students as they go through life," she says. The teacher, who loves to tell a story before going on to the lesson proper, also gives hope to her pupils. Injecting a little sense of humor also made her one of her pupils' favorites. "For my students, I'm not only their Science teacher, I'm also their best friend."

To further strengthen her ties with her pupils, Victoria also serves as the adviser for Zamboanga East Central School's science club, and for their school paper The Easterner. She received the award for Outstanding Journalism Teacher in Region 9, in recognition for her efforts in training young writers for their school paper. She also serves as president of the Regional School Paper-Adviser Association, and also of the Division School Paper Association.

Married with four kids, two of whom have graduated from college, Victoria hurdled one of the greatest tests to her profession. And it's not just about being a teacher, but being a second mother to one of her troubled pupils. "This kid was your typical problem child," she relates. "Instead of raising my voice, I always talked to him with motherly care." Just before this pupil graduated, a change had transpired in him. Grateful for the sudden transformation, the boy's parents couldn't thank her enough.

There are no signs of Victoria retiring in the near future. She intends to continue the job she loves so much until she reaches the retirement age. "I love teaching. It's my mission to shape and mold the youth of today who, hopefully, will someday become responsible and productive citizens of this nation," she says.

Her being one of Metrobank's Most Outstanding Teachers this year is especially sweet because this is her division's fourth victory. Her only wish today is to finally finish her Master of Arts in Education, the only missing link to the fulfillment of her dream. ***Marlet Salazar***

The music of life

SHE admits she's no singer herself but it is in this field that she considers she contributed a lot to education. A graduate of BS in Elementary Education at Philippine Normal University in 1965, Ruth A. Larracas obtained her Music Specialization degree from Philippine Women's University 10 years later. She has also earned units in MA in Music Education Specialization at the Philippine Normal University.

Known to everybody as Ruthie or Chie, she's a special music teacher to Grade III to VI pupils at the Isabelo de los Reyes Elementary School in Tondo, Manila. She is also the trainer of an all-boys choir named Coro Angelitos which has given her school countless honors and awards.

Ruth's genuine love and innate talent in music are reflected in the songs she has composed, foremost of which was the one she dedicated to Dr. Ricardo Gloria, then secretary of education, on his natal day. She's a leader, a composer and teacher rolled into one. She's currently the president of the Manila Public Elementary Music Teachers Association for two terms now.

Ruth believes that her love and interest in music helped her and other co-teachers in the school discover that music has so many things to offer aside from the songs.

"Teachers in our school who were passive in teaching music developed interest in it. My being a curriculum music teacher, demonstration teacher, consultant, discussant and a choir trainer opened the gates wider for music to be loved and enjoyed," she says.

Now 36 years in the profession, she says she finds fulfillment in her pupils who inspire her to always do her best.

"They challenge me to discover what lies behind their innocent faces. Queries, answers, little thoughtfulness and candid remarks literally make my day," shares Ruth.

She also believes that education is an unending process.

"A child should realize that education never stops as she finishes his elementary, secondary and tertiary levels. A real teacher should teach the pupils first, the subjects next," she says.

Asked what message she would want to impart to the youth of today, she says, "The knowledge you have now is your investment for the future." ***Joel V. Nigos***

HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

FROM left, Maria Jesusa Despojo, Rosanni L. Palma, Erlinda D. G. Antaran and Luzviminda G. Chan.

Passion
We're painting the town
REVO
VX200 J
SR-J Sport Runner
3 YEAR WARRANTY
ME AND MY
TAMARAW FX
REVO

REVO HOT DEALS
- LOWEST DOWNPAYMENT OF ₱ 82,600*
- LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION OF ₱ 6,163**
- ZERO INTEREST PLANS***
- CHOICES OF LOW DOWNPAYMENT OPTIONS
- CHOICES OF LOW MONTHLY OPTIONS
- EXCITING PACKAGES FOR CASH BUYERS
- CHOICE OF FREE INSURANCE OR ACCESSORIES FOR CASH BUYERS

* For DLX Gas at 20% DP
** 60 mos. / 50% DP
*** From 30%-50% DP for GL models & below at 12 months
Subject to bank approval.

REVO HOT FEATURES
ENJOY THESE HOT, NEW FEATURES OF THE VX200-J AND SR-J MODELS

VX200-J
- VCD/DUAL MONITOR
- METAL PANEL TRIM
- BACK UP SENSORS
- LIMITED EDITION BADGE
- EXCLUSIVE COLORS

SR-J
- VCD/DUAL MONITOR
- WINDOW VISORS
- NEW SIDE STRIPES
- BACK UP SENSORS
- LIMITED EDITION BADGE

Promo extended up to September 30, 2002
Approved by DTI-NCR

TOYOTA

TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 02 / 802-1001 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY Gardenville Subdivision, Araneta St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokawkan Road cor. Aguila St., Baguio City (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 443-0778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., EDSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalookan City 366-0991 to 00 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH 1010 Epifanio De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 60 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay Balagtas, Batangas City (043) 723-7366 TOYOTA BEL-AIR, INC., Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC. Km. 118 Maharlika Highway, Daang Sarile Cabanatuan City (044) 463-6481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Km. 3 National Highway Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735 770 / 701 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 (088)858 7770 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M.J. Cuenco St. Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave. Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 926 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2020 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 0734/ 4773 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC. Km. 8 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0908 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8840 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plains Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP. Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3304 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 Paz M. Guazon St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 00 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 to 18 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64

See flyers for details!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1459, Series of 2002

Science and Miss Jolly

SCIENCE and technology teacher Luzminda B. Chan has the imagination of a child when it comes to teaching science subjects to high school students.

To make the students better understand the function of a matter's basic unit, the cell, she made a comic strip on cell structures and function drawn on an illustration board. Not only that, she has also drawn cell division, indicating colorful movement of cell organelles.

These posters are now part of effective teaching materials in the region where Luzviminda or Luz teaches. She teaches high school students at the Aloran Trade High School, Aloran, Misamis Occidental.

Luz has produced 12 teacher support materials including activity series for use in public schools in region 10. These materials, which she made through the help of Australian and Philippine government, deals with ecosystems and global warming, rock formation, and biological diversity—topics that educate students on conservation of the environment.

Luz considers the teaching profession as a "dream." After high school, she had to stop her studies because of poverty. The only way she could finish college was to be a working student. Eventually, she graduated with honors at the Southern Capital Colleges in Oroquieta City and is currently pursuing a master's degree.

"My students regard me as a 'jolly' person despite the fact that I could sometimes be strict and stern in the classroom. Outside the class, they consider me as their good old friend," she says.

Teaching for her is a kind of profession that allows her to become "selfless in favor of the hungry minds who frequent her class."

She considers the award as a teachers' greatest achievement, dedication and commitment to the profession. ***Raquel Gomez***

'My students regard me as a 'jolly' person despite the fact that I could sometimes be strict and stern in the classroom. Outside the class, they consider me as their good old friend'

Destined to teach

'When I see my students reach their dreams. And when they come to me to say, 'Thank you for helping me become what I am now,' that's more than enough source of strength for me to go on'

FOR SOMEONE who didn't plan to become a teacher, the award validates that it is her destiny to become one. High school teacher Maria Jesusa C. Despojo does not regret her decision. She even considers herself lucky and is very proud to have been chosen as one of the country's most outstanding educators.

One may call it ironic, but in spite of choosing the career she initially didn't want, Jesusa has been an outstanding teacher at the Dumaguete City High School for five consecutive years (from 1996 to 2001). At a young age of 39, she is in the process of completing her Doctor of Education, in addition to her BS and MA in Education. A Biology teacher, she has written a number of instructional materials now being used in five regions in the country. Being the coach and trainer of the school's Young Scientists Club, Jesusa was also instrumental in their regular participation at the Search for The Outstanding Youth-Science Researchers fair and exhibits. For her, "teaching is learning by doing." She believes that students should not be limited to theories only. "Students learn best when they perform hands-on activities. And in the process, learning becomes more meaningful," she says.

She excelled in this profession as evidenced by the number of awards she received through the years. A long list of seminars and workshops she attended as participant or facilitator attest to her dedication as a teacher. Jesusa even had the honor of being sent to a two-month teaching scholarship in Australia.

Asked if she ever gets tired of the challenges of teaching, she simply says "When I see my students reach their dreams. And when they come to me to say, 'Thank you for helping me become what I am now,' that's more than enough source of strength for me to go on." ***Marlet Salazar***

Proud to be a Filipino teacher

'I am satisfied with the thought that the greatest compensation I can get from it is to become part of the success of my students'

BEING a Pilipino teacher brings enormous pride to Erlinda de Guzman-Antaran. Her commitment to teaching the Filipino language and literature is worthy of emulation. Her love for teaching knows no bounds. She is doing everything she can to make her students appreciate Pilipino.

A true caring educator, Erlinda has always set her heart on the welfare of her students. "I see to it that my students don't learn only from my lessons, but also from the values I impart to them," she says. Since 1993, she has served as the adviser of Makati Science High School's Filipino Club. Her involvement in activities that promote the Filipino subject is nothing but admirable. The awards, achievements, and contributions to society are unquestionable proof of how she has given so much to her chosen profession.

Forty-one-year-old Erlinda describes herself as a disciplinarian, as well as "a Christian who happens to be a teacher." Each time a student wins in a contest, credit is given to her untiring support on his or her quest for honor. It's like the Balagtasan, Bigkasan, Talumpatian, Dula and Tagisan ng Talino will never be complete without her presence. Graduated cum laude at the Philippine Normal College, Erlinda was named Outstanding Filipino Teacher of 2001 for the National Capital Region. She was recently named as Kabayan Natatanging Gawad Guro ng Filipino 2002.

Teaching is in her heart, nothing can take that away from her. "I am satisfied with the thought that the greatest compensation I can get from it is to become part of the success of my students," she says. ***Marlet Salazar***

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

CONGRATULATES

METROBANK

ON ITS

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Metrobank celebrates Ruby Anniversary; Mounts memorabilia exhibit

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, marks its 40th founding anniversary today (Sept. 5). The celebration includes a lineup of activities scheduled today and on the 6th and 12th of the month.

The bank's ruby anniversary celebration opens with a thanksgiving mass held at its Makati head office, after which loyal employees were feted in simple ceremonies. The stars of the ceremonies were the 21 30-year service awardees led by bank executive vice president Patricio Go. Later in the day, Metrobank will hold its traditional donation turnover ceremony, wherein it gives donations totaling ₱10 million to various charitable institutions and civic projects.

Highlighting the first day of the festivities is the opening of a memorabilia exhibit titled "Forty Firsts," which is at the head office ground floor lobby. It features photos and other items symbolic of 40 milestones in the bank's history. The exhibit will run for the whole month.

In the evening, the bank will honor its 20-year clients.

As in previous years, the most awaited event is the awarding of the Outstanding Teachers of 2002. This will happen on Sept. 6 with guest of honor Senator Franklin Drilon and Board of Judges chair and former Education secretary Raul Roco. The 12 deserving awardees hail from the different parts of the archipelago. The Search is one of the centerpiece projects of the bank's philanthropic arm, the Metrobank Foundation.

On Sept. 12, the last day of the celebration, the bank will award the winners of this year's Young Painters Annual. It will be followed by the formal opening of the two-week long exhibit of winning works to be attended by the who's who of the Philippine arts. ***Marlet Salazar***

COLLEGE LEVEL

Teaching dignity in farming

'We usually see agriculture as a place for people who do not go to college. That perception should be changed. Being a farmer is a dignified job and there's money in it'

FROM left, Dr. Valentino Sitoy Jr., Dr. Lita Molitas-Colting and Dr. Leoncio Deriada

AGRICULTURAL scientist Lita M. Colting from the Benguet State University in La Trinidad province teaches agriculture subjects to college students in the open fields where colonies of bees reside. Lita takes pride in the fact that she is one of the few Igorots who obtained a doctoral degree in entomology.

Dressed in jeans, tees and boots, she expounds on bees, potato leafminers, and the two-spotted red spider mites while her students look in awe.

Her passion for insects has led her to generate studies and technologies about farming and pest management that help vegetable farmers in Benguet. She also introduced beekeeping and sericulture course as an "entrepreneurial major field" at the university's agriculture college.

Through her endeavor, the college now also offers Bachelor of Science in Development Communication. The list of accomplishments this small woman has done for the university and the community is long. Why does she focus and excel in agriculture and study of insects?

"I came from a farming community. And one of the problems of farming is pests."

She has a dream and has begun making it a reality. She wants to encourage the young generation to go back to the basics—by going into farming and break the perception that farming is only for the uneducated.

"If the young and talented people take up an agriculture degree and go into farming, then we'll become like the developed countries."

She says the problem in our country is that farmers aren't trained in schools to equip them with the skill to run their farms well. Most farmers do not even know how to market their products.

"But if the farming community will be run by college graduates, they will know the marketing system, they can sustain their farms."

"We usually see agriculture as place for people who do not go to college. That perception should be changed. Being a farmer is a dignified job and there's money in it."

Through her efforts, the university has attracted quite a number of students to take up the agriculture degree. "We are very happy that after graduation, most of the students go back to farming. We often tell our students that there are things you learn from school which you cannot get from experience."

Raquel Gomez

High School Level continued

Close to perfection

'Education is something that must seep into the soul of the learners, one that students could remember and keep as a lasting legacy'

IT'S obvious how passionate Rosanni L. Palma is to her profession. Judging from her accomplishments, she has always strived to be on top of everything. Her eloquence unfolds right before your very eyes when she starts to talk about teaching. And maybe, her will to make everything perfect is one of the reasons she is now recognized as one of Metrobank's Most Outstanding Teachers.

'As a teacher, I don't find excuses for not performing well,' she says. Rossani believes that being a good, efficient, effective and competent teacher is in itself her contribution to education.

Rossani, who teaches English and Journalism at Sorsogon National High School, also made an effort to go beyond the classrooms when she initiated the publication of barangay newsletters in her province. This gave the student-writers, parents and barangay officials an opportunity to grow and learn together.

At 43, Rossani's contribution to education is worthy of acknowledgment. She has written news and feature articles in the community paper, and scripts for regional press conferences. One of her most outstanding works is a research she conducted on the life of Sorsogon's unsung hero, Juan Sesbreño Reyes, published by the Department of Education Culture and Sports regional offices' book on exemplary Filipinos.

Rossani's credentials could land her a more lucrative job elsewhere, but instead she opted to stay in a public school. If you don't call that noble, then what is?

She earned her MA English at the Annunciation College last year, and is currently pursuing Doctor of Education at the same school. The way things are going for Rossani, there's no stopping her from achieving and giving back her blessings to others. And for her, "Education is something that must seep into the soul of the learners, one that students could remember and keep as a lasting legacy."

Marlet Salazar

The millionaires' circle awaits you!

join the PSBank MegaMillion Challenge

Rosalina Agapito is the country's newest millionaire
You could be next.

Challenge # 1:
For new depositors to qualify, just open an account and maintain an ADB of P10,000.00 or U.S.$500.00.

Challenge # 2:
Increase your ADB. ADB increments of P10,000.00 or U.S.$250.00 entitle you to additional raffle numbers.

Your lucky star may shine on you on the next draw!
Hurry and open an account now!

Challenge # 3:
Deposit as much as you can.
The more you deposit, the higher your ADB, the greater your chances of winning!

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY
PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City
Tel. 885-8208 connecting all units

Working harder for you.

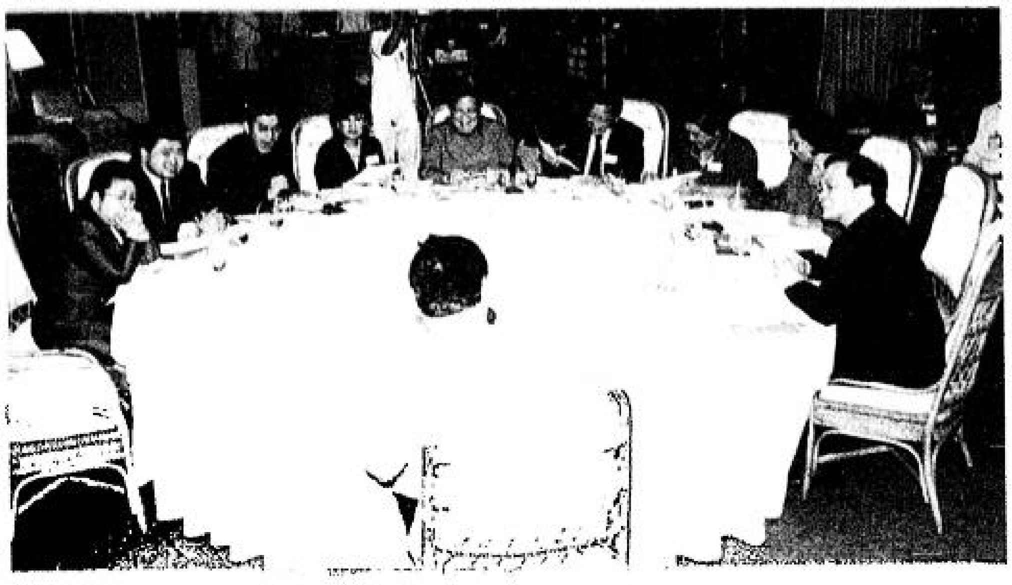
Win ₱1,000,000.00 in CASH tax-free each month.
₱3,000,000.00 in CASH tax-free in the grand draw.
Visit any PSBank branch nearest you or see posters and fliers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2608 series of 2002
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P100,000.00. BancNet

Final judging of outstanding teachers search held

METROBANK Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Metrobank, recently held the final interview for its 18th Annual Search for Outstanding Teachers.

Metrobank Foundation has selected the 12 awardees during the final judging phase: five from elementary level; four from high school level and three from the college level. Awardees will be proclaimed today during Metrobank's anniversary and will each receive P150,000. Of this amount, P25,000 will go to the faculty development program of the awardee's school.



The Final Board of Judges is composed of prominent personalities in government, judiciary, the academe, media, and civil society. It is headed by Education Secretary Raul S. Roco (center, in blue barong) and co-chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Renato S. Puno (fourth from right). Shown is a finalist being interviewed by the panel of judges that include (second from left) SGV and company chair and managing partner Cesar V. Purisima, Marinduque Rep. Edmundo O. Reyes Jr., Professional Regulation Commission Chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe, CEU president Dr. Rosita L. Navarro and Cyberdyaryo editor Paulynn Sicam. Not in photo is Tagaytay City Mayor Francis N. Tolentino. Also present to witness the final judging were Metrobank Foundation executive vice president Elvira Ong Chan (extreme left) and executive director Aniceto M. Sobrepeña (extreme right).

The 'live wire' of history

'Slowly I began to develop a deep and eventual lasting love for teaching, as well as a consuming passion for my discipline'

HE is called by his students as "a teacher who needs no notes," "a walking encyclopedia," and a "live wire."

Valentino S. Sitoy Jr., 63, professor of history for 35 years at the Central Visayas Polytechnic College, has earned his students and his peers high regards and the distinction of being a learned and scholarly man.

His accomplishments include voluminous historical writings and research that has enriched the professor's mastery of the subject but also enhanced his competence in teaching. The historical research and writings was a product of Valentino's desire to have more "source books" to be used by students of history. Apparently, the country is in need of scholarly works, particularly in the field of history.

"My research made all the difference in my teaching," he says. "Coming up with historical insights from the contents of my research inevitably always kept my classes alive."

According to Valentin, an excellent teacher is one "whose lifestyle serves as a worthy model to emulate, and whose teaching inspires students to learn together." With this kind of attitude towards teaching, Valentin has reaped the rewards of teaching through the interactive response of his students during class.

"The attentive participation of students in class, the exclamation of 'a-ha!' when one of them catches a new insight, the expectant moment as a student gropes for words to express a nagging question, the transformation of students from shy, silent freshman to vocal student leaders—all these and more have brought me joys as a teacher."

Valentin has a broad training in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. He studied at UP Diliman and Silliman University. He earned his master's degree in and the United States and his Ph.D in History from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom.

"Slowly I began to develop a deep and eventual lasting love for teaching, as well as a consuming passion for my discipline." ***Raquel Gomez***

The teacher who happens to write

'If a stupid teacher commits a booboo in the classroom, there are probably 30 or 40 or even 80 victims. This is criminal'

THE TEACHER is actually the oldest student in the classroom, according to Leoncio Deriada, a professor of comparative literature at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas.

His definition states that while a teacher imparts knowledge to his students, he is likewise learning a "more acute appreciation of the human hunger to know and dream and grow and become." This insight is the key to a teacher's ever-increasing wisdom.

Some heavy words coming from a literary person whose passion for the teaching profession is at par with his writing career. As a writer, Leoncio or Leo has obtained the Palanca Hall of Fame Award after winning his fifth first prize in the Palanca Literary Awards last year. His works obtained for him a total of 15 Palanca prizes. He is also a recipient of the Gawad Lope K. Santos and the Gawad Alagad ni Balagtas in 2001.

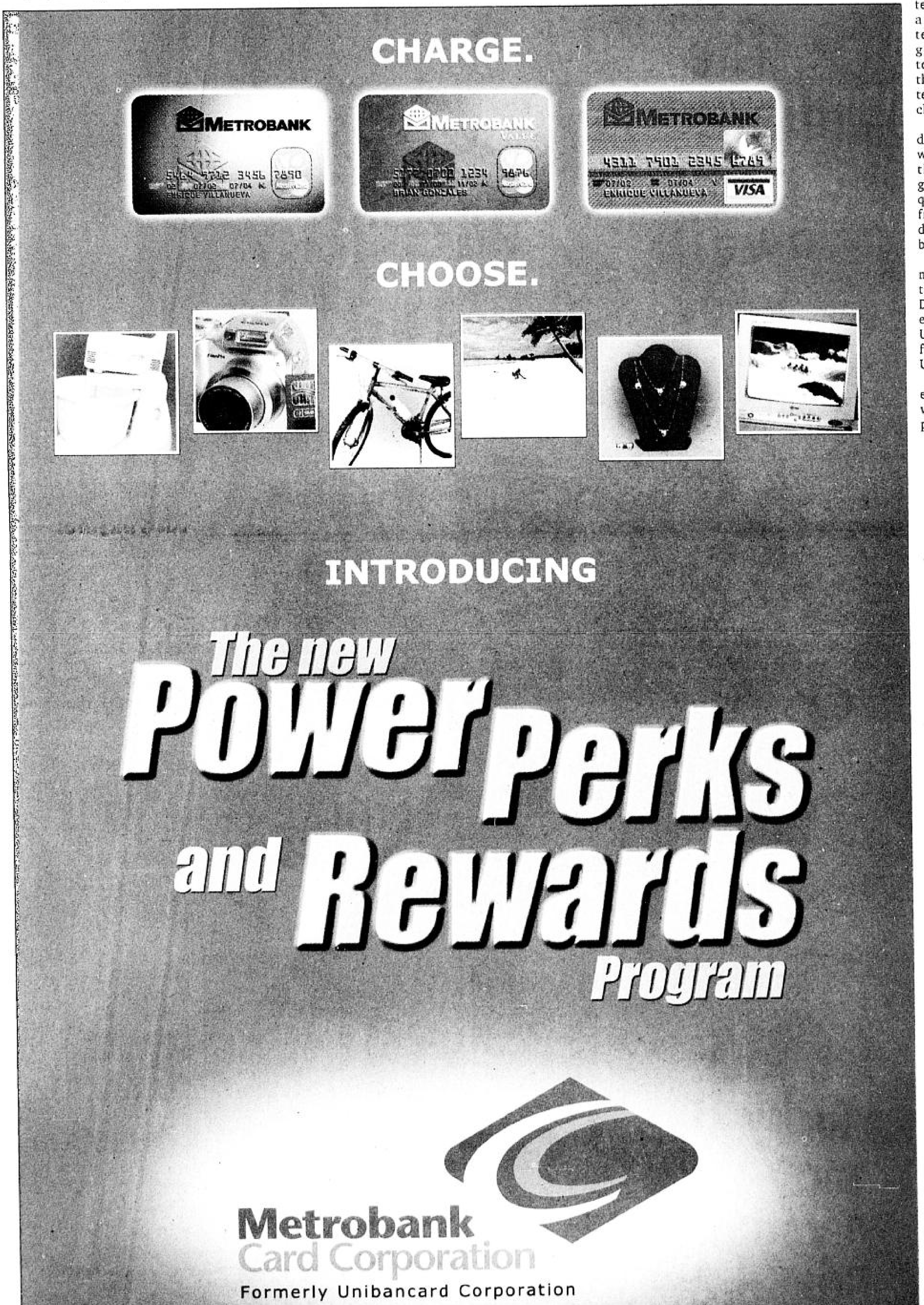
"I am primarily a teacher who happens to write," he says. "Writing is the best complement to teaching and writing involved the sharing of insights and a more accurate view of the human condition."

Leo, who has been teaching for 43 years, has pushed for the importance of the teaching of Philippine folklore to Filipino students. He has revived writing in Hilgaynon, Filipino, and English in the Visayas region. He has also encouraged Kinaray-a and Akeanon writings—where virtually there was none in school before his coming in the 1980s.

Part of Leo's expertise is the teaching of Islamic literature and West Visayan literature that includes Hiligaynon, Kinaray-a and Aklanon.

Leo says he started teaching in 1954, "when Coca-Cola was 10 centavos and my board-and-lodging was P42.50. My salary was P150 a month." From there, his life had similarly gone through a lot of changes till he had earned the moniker "father of modern Western Visayas Writing."

"Only brilliant students should take up teaching," says this witty professor. "The worst a stupid doctor can do is cut off the wrong organ. There is exactly one victim. If a stupid teacher commits a booboo in the classroom, there are probably 30 or 40 or even 80 victims. This is criminal." ***Raquel Gomez***



Earn power rewards points everytime you charge with your Metrobank VISA*, Metrobank MasterCard and Metrobank Value MasterCard.

The new Power Perks and Rewards Program features gift checks, home and kitchen appliances, kiddie items, travel packages, entertainment and personal gadgets plus a lot more! Charge with your Metrobank credit card now and enjoy the power to choose.

See Power Perks and Rewards catalogue for further details.

For inquiries, please call our 24-hour, 7-day Customer Service number:
8-700-700 in Metro Manila or domestic toll-free 1-800-1-888-5775 outside Metro Manila

*Excluding Dual Currency and Value VISA

Promo will run until July 2005.

SEC issues warning against companies targeting OFWs

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday warned the public against putting their money in two unregistered financial firms.

In its advisory, the SEC said Overseas Workers Stock Capital and Portfolio Management Services lacked secondary licenses that would allow them to operate as financial firms.

Secondary licenses are required before companies can operate as securities brokers and dealers, investment advisers or futures exchange brokers.

The SEC said Portfolio Management, supposedly the local agent of Eurolink Investment Services Inc., was not even registered with the commission as a corporation and, therefore, had no legal personality.

The commission issued an advisory in response to numerous inquiries about Portfolio Management's "misleading" marketing management and counseling agreement.

Regarding OWSC, the SEC said this group was not registered with the commission and not authorized to take investments from the public or deal in shares of stocks.

SEC compliance and enforcement director Jose Tomas Syquia said the two groups had been targeting overseas Filipino workers.

Napocor holds 'price challenge' to cut ₱390M in coal expenses

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is holding today a "price challenge" for coal shipments totaling 260,000 tons to shave off costs of P390 million.

Napocor said in a statement the supply represented contract options for two additional shipments of 65,000 tons each for the 1,200-megawatt Sual and the 600-MW Masinloc power plants.

The power firm explained that the price challenge was a flexibility option where Napocor would call an auction for other suppliers to offer rates lower than the contract prices.

Under the optional cargo supply clause of contracts with Chinese suppliers Shenhua Ltd. and Shanxi Coal Import & Export Co., the two firms have the first option to match the price of the lowest bidder.

Shenhua provides coal for the Masinloc plant at $30.20 per metric ton, while Shanxi supplies the Sual plant at $27.90 a ton.

Napocor said it was able to save about P40 million from a previous price challenge involving additional shipments for Sual, Masinloc and the 700-MW Pagbilao plant.

The state firm owns and operates the Masinloc plant, while the Sual and Pagbilao plants are operated by Mirant Philippines under a build-operate-transfer contract.

The BOT contracts provide that Napocor will procure fuel for the plants.

Napocor will gain ownership of the Pagbilao plant in 2021 and of the Sual plant in 2019.

In a related matter, interest groups have asked the government to shut down coal-fired plants in the country to show its commitment to sustainable development, prompting the Senate committee on environment to investigate the matter.

Last month, Napocor decried these calls as part of dirty tricks by interests that would benefit from the closure of the plants.

A ranking Napocor official said the question on the firm's compliance with environmental standards should no longer be a concern as the proper authorities had long answered this.

"But these groups (against our coal plants) would rather look past facts and launch a propaganda campaign," he said. "Whose interests are they pushing?"

The official said, for instance that despite the 600-MW Calaca plant's getting a clean bill from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ateneo-based Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry, the groups continued to raise the issue of mercury contamination.

Semirara plans ₱1B in capex

ANTIQUE—Semirara Mining Corp. yesterday said it was considering pouring in some P1 billion in additional capital expenditures to improve product quality, even as calls to shut down the country's coal-fired power plants threaten to wipe it out.

Semirara president Victor Consunji said in an interview the firm wanted to pour in new investments as soon as possible.

"The (P1 billion) will be secured through suppliers' commitments rather than through loans or internal cash," Consunji said.

The official added that the firm had invested over P3 billion in machinery and other new facilities since the DMCI Group took over the mines in 1997.

DMCI has a 74-percent stake in Semirara, which it acquired from Voest Alpine of Austria.

Consunji said the National Development Corp. holds 21 percent of the firm while the remainder is dispersed among public investors. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

PNOC sees P500,000/yr from EPS

STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. is expected to save at least P500,000 a year and even earn some extra income when its new e-procurement system goes live within the month.

PNOC EC vice president and chief operating officer Rafael del Pilar said in a news briefing yesterday that the new system would make the company's procurement process "more transparent, more efficient and more cost-effective."

The new system is a six-year partnership between PNOC-EC and the East West Electronic Trade Center, without any investment from the government.

Because the government did not shell out any cash for the establishment of the system, EWETC would earn from the project on a per-transaction basis. It would get a one-percent share of the total transaction cost for every transaction done using PNOC-EC's e-procurement system.

These transactions will range from the procurement of office supplies to the procurement of turbines and drilling equipment, Del Pilar said.

Abigail L. Ho

The Most Wanted is the Most Rewarding

Affordably low monthly of **P10,019***

Absolutely Low Downpayment!

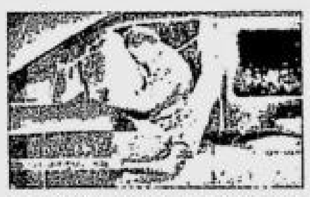
Amazing ZERO Interest Deal!

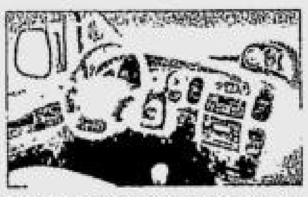
Special deal for cash buyers!

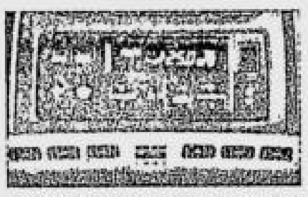
3 YEARS FACTORY WARRANTY 100,000 KMS

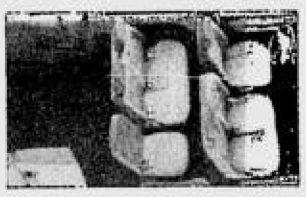
Fully loaded with modern amenities for your driving and riding comfort

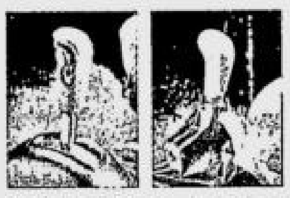
Photos may vary from actual unit/accessories


Full-size driver side airbag - a rarity among passenger vans - provides additional protection (Exclusive to CLUB model)


Woodgrain dashboard adds luxury to the spacious cabin (Multimeter for CLUB model only)


High output air conditioning system with auxiliary overhead rear unit (optional) assures all-around cooling


Comfortable, relaxing and roomy passenger area.


Finely tuned transmission systems allow smooth and quiet shifting between gears. Available in 5-speed manual and 4-speed automatic.

2.5L Turbocharged intercooled diesel power machine that delivers optimum performance minus the big fuel bill.

Other FREE rewards: LTO Registration, Tint, Floor Matting, Comprehensive Insurance on the 1st year on Financing Sales

Get to own your Hyundai Starex luxury family van at very affordable terms, only from Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the exclusive Philippine distributor of Hyundai passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

*LOW MONTHLY
SVX MT Model

DP%	DP	12mos.	18mos.	24mos.	36mos.	48mos.	60mos.
20%	P173,000	61,098	41,986	33,759	23,978	19,133	16,317
30%	P259,500	53,239	36,583	29,420	20,897	16,673	14,218
40%	P346,000	45,378	31,181	25,081	17,815	14,215	12,118
50%	P432,500	37,516	25,780	20,742	14,733	11,755	**10,019**

LOW DOWNPAYMENT
SVX MT Model

DP%	Promo DP
20%	153,000
30%	239,500
40%	326,000
50%	412,500

ZERO Interest
50% DP/ 12 months

Model	SRP	50% DP	Monthly
SVX MT	P 865,000	432,500	36,042
SVX AT	P 910,000	455,000	37,917
CLUB AT	P1,055,000	527,500	43,959
JUMBO AT	P 900,000	450,000	37,501

Drive to your nearest HARI dealer now.

Promo valid from August 15 - September 15, 2002 only

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3274, series of 2002
***Approved by DTI-NCR*

All financing applications are subject to bank approval. *Participating banks: BPI, Equitable-PCI Bank, Metrobank, Philam Savings Bank, PS Bank, RCBC Savings, Union Bank, UCPB and UCPB Savings***

www.myhyundai.com.ph

Drive smart, drive with peace of mind. Deal only with authorized HARI dealers.

Hyundai E.Rodriguez, Sr. Ave.
222 E Rodriguez, Sr. Ave.
Quezon City, M.Mla.
Tel.#: (02) 727-6394 (02) 413-1848
(02) 251-0018 (02) 253-1909

Hyundai Edsa
451 Edsa Guadalupe,
Makati City
Tel #: (02) 882-2432
(02) 882-2433

Hyundai Ortigas
500 EDSA, Greenhills
San Juan
Tel.#: (02) 723-0101 to 07

Hyundai Quezon Ave.
1144 Quezon Ave., QC
Tel.#: (02) 374-3911
(02) 411-2720

Hyundai Bacolod
Araneta St., Bacolod City
Negros Occidental
Tel.#: (034) 433-3510
(034) 435-0268

Hyundai Cebu
A.S. Fortuna St., Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel #: (032) 346-2724
(032) 345-4146 (032)
345-0324 to 26

Hyundai Iloilo
Dona Ramona Bldg.
38 Luna St., La Paz Iloilo City
Tel # (033) 320-2064
(033) 320-4186

Hyundai Laguna
Areza Bldg., National
Highway Brgy. Canlalay,
Binan Laguna Tel # (049)
411-5850 (02) 520-8211
(02) 520-8250

Hyundai Pampanga
San Fernando-Olongapo
Gapan Road San Fernando,
Pampanga Tel.#: (045)
888-3241 (045) 625-9805

HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC.
EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAI

Hyundai Motor Company (HMC)

HYUNDAI
Always there for you.

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Job Station elects new directors and officers

JOB Station Company announces the election of its board of directors and officers for 2002-2003. Reelected chair is Florinda S. Dayrit. Board members are Ma. Jazmin L. Buñag, Agnes V. Gimenez, Belina U. Mendoza and Melissande M. Paggabao. Reelected officers are Agnes V. Gimenez, president, Norina P. Zialcita, corporate secretary and Paciencia D. Madlangbayan, corporate treasurer.

Job Station is a licensed overseas placement agency, committed to help medical professionals such as nurses, radiology technicians, medical technologists, physical therapists and pharmacists find better working opportunities in the United States and other parts of the world.

It has been recruiting for Barnes-Jewish Christian Health Care System in Missouri and of late has negotiated with HealthPic Recruiters Inc. for the recruitment needs of the University of Chicago Hospital, St. Barnabas Health Care System, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Banner Healthcare and John Hopkins, to name a few.

Job Station is owned and operated by a group of corporate, legal and medical professionals, with direct tie-ups in the United States and other places abroad. Its office is located at 4300B Emilia Street, Palanan, Makati City with telephone numbers 551-8495 and 551-9406. Interested applicants may call or come in to apply.

ACSAT ADOPTS FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY

In order to reinforce its position as the premier high-tech college in the Negros Oriental province, the Asian College of Science and Technology (Acsat) Dumaguete Campus has adopted Biometric (fingerprint) Access Control technology in screening individuals who enter its campus. Claiming to be the first of its kind in the province, the system was developed in-house by its research arm Acsat Research and Development. The system identifies students and faculty members using fingerprint-scanning technology and automatically blocks entry of unauthorized persons via its electric turnstile. Shown is engineer Emmanuel D. Sia, lead designer of the project (left), and students using the system.

Mag-Nestlé Almusal

P100,000 RICHER

Nestle Philippines Inc (NPI) recently awarded P100,000 each to a tricycle driver, jeepney driver and a private vehicle owner whose vehicles were spotted carrying the Mag-Nestle Almusal sticker. The Mag-Nestle Almusal Sticker Panalo! promo was launched to support the food giant's breakfast campaign, an initiative which aims to underscore the importance and value of breakfast. The food giant also gave away P10,000 each to 30 winners and P20,000 each to 20 winners. P100,000 winner Arnold Tamayo (center) is shown with (from left) Grace Rubio, Publicis-AMA events coordinator, Antonio Caballero Jr., NPI management trainee, Jocelyn Ortiz, NPI marketing and promotions officer, and Leslie Noble, Publicis-AMA vice president for events.

NLP holds 2002 3rd quarter sales kick-off

IN ITS COMMITMENT to motivate and acknowledge the top performers of the company, Nippon Life Philippines (NLP) recently held its Fifa World Cup theme 2002 3rd Quarter Kickoff Sales Awards at RCBC Plaza's Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium.

NLP paid tribute to the agency force that met its commitment for the 2nd quarter of 2002 by awarding the prestigious Daruma and Excellent Achiever awards and welcoming the MDRT qualifiers in the recently concluded MDRT convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Guest of honor Hideichiro Kobayashi, managing director of Nippon Life Japan, expressed his vision and confidence in the bright future of Nippon Life in the country.

Among those awarded are some of the company's top agency development managers: Baguio branch's Joy Bigornia, Greenhills branch's Lucette Natividad, Banawe branch's Charles Dy and Aurora branch's Espie Torres.

During the event NLP management also announced some new and exciting incentives for its agents such as the OK for Kohei and the Japan Sales Drive Qualifiers.

Nippon Life Philippines is a joint venture between the respected Yuchengco Group of Companies and top Japanese Insurer Nippon Life Japan (NLJ). Fortune Magazine in its July 2002 Global 500 issue ranked Nippon Life Japan as the world's largest life insurance company.

THE CHEF MEETS THE BAKER

Renowned baking specialist Heny Sison pairs off with San Miguel Purefoods Chef Martin del Prado in a culinary showdown Sept. 6, 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the AsiaFood Expo 2002, World Trade Center along Roxas Boulevard, sponsored by Magnolia Gold Butter. The culinary adventure features new trends and creative ways in baking and cooking with Magnolia Gold. Exciting recipes in time for the holidays and sumptuous food will delight your palate with the distinct standard of pure creaminess, pure pleasure from Magnolia Gold Butter. Magnolia Gold Culinary Adventure tickets will be distributed for free on a first-come-first-served basis at the Magnolia Food Service booths on Sept. 6. Win exciting prizes from Magnolia Gold and Magnolia Cheezee.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting printers and security printers to bid on the following packages:

Package 1 - Printing of PEPT Test Booklets
Budget Allocation P 4,000,000.00

Package 2 - Printing of Achievement Test' Test Booklets (TB) and Delivery and Retrieval of TBs and Answer Sheet
Budget Allocation P 17,000,000.00

Package 3 - Printing of Non-Classified Materials: PEPT Examiner's Handbook, Annual Report and Research Related Documents, Achievement Test Examiner's Handbook and Answer Matrix Sheet
Budget Allocation P 1,115,000.00

All interested bidders must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **August 30, 2002** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at *http://www.decs.gov.ph*.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 12, 2002**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **September 26, 2002** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary
Co-Chairman, Bids & Awards Commitee

(PDI--Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2002)

Product**FILES**

Helps produce glutathione

THE BODY has its own mechanisms to eliminate toxins. But pollution, stress, poor diet, and infection deplete the body's supply of *glutathione*. The main organ for detoxification is the liver—where *glutathione* can be found in its highest concentrations. Studies show that low levels of *glutathione* lead to poor liver function, causing more toxins to circulate in the body, resulting to damage to individual cells and organs.

Glutathione has also been found to protect our bodies from harmful toxins. *Glutathione* was demonstrated to detoxify at least 12 known carcinogens directly.

Glutathione is rarely found in edible proteins and must be generated within the cell. The development of Immunocal as an excellent provider of building blocks to produce *glutathione* and augment glutathione levels in our body has been considered as significant as the discovery of penicillin and insulin.

Immunocal is, at present, considered the most effective method of increasing and maintaining *glutathione* levels without side effects. Even the lactose-intolerant can benefit from Immunocal Milk Protein Isolate Dietary Supplement, and is suited for all ages and will not go in conflict with any medication.

The product is manufactured in the United States and packed in Canada. It is registered and approved by BFAD, and its merits have been acknowledged by the DOH.

For inquiries, call 891-7703, 0918-9015649 or 0916-4300972.

Thai trade fair at Rockwell

THE OFFICE of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy in Manila, in cooperation with the Department of Export Promotion in Thailand, organizes the trade fair "Distribution Network of Thai Brand Names for Ready-to-Wear, Leathergoods and Cosmetics" Sept. 5 and 6 at the South Court, Power Plant, Rockwell Center in Makati. The fair features various Thai fashionable and latest design brand names of children's, teen's, ladies', and men's ready-to-wear, handbags, wallets, belts and other leather products, as well as cosmetics. For more details, call Malou de Leon at 894-0406 or 894-0403.

TLRC seminar tackles perfumes

A SEMINAR on perfumes and colognes slated Sept. 6, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) will teach participants skills in making oil and water-based cream perfumes for men and ladies, body splash, gel colognes and eau de toilette. Resource person Rummel Dietmar lectures on starting a perfume business, formulations, blending of essential oils, types of perfumes and colognes, product requirements, material specifications, cost and return analysis. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728, or at 637-4108 to 12 local 605.

BITS & Clips

Penafrancia in Metro Manila

THE PENAFRANCIA Devotees Association of Metro Manila, headed by Dr. Rosario Prieto-Felipe, has finalized its activities for the celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Penafrancia, patroness of the entire Bicol region, from Sept. 12 to 15, here in Metro Manila. The Manila festivities, celebrated a week before the Naga celebration, usually consist of a Triduum—3-day novena prayers and masses which will be held at the St. Andrew the Apostle Parish at N. Garcia corner Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City at 6 p.m. A traditional fluvial procession on Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. along the Pasig River carrying the miraculous image of "Ina" in a decorated barge will start from the barge embarkation area of the Hospicio de San Jose at Ayala Bridge and end at the ferry landing in Escolta, near Jones Bridge. Lady devotees will take turns in bringing "Ina" to the Manila Cathedral, where a concelebrated High Mass headed by Bishop Nestor C. Carino will highlight the celebration at 6 p.m. All devotees are invited.

UP Repertory stages plays

FOR ITS 30th season, the UP Repertory Company will be producing "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" by Paul Dumol and "Moses, Moses" by Rogelio Sicat. These are socially relevant plays that impart the value of social justice, equality and freedom. Watch them at the Dalisay Aldaba Recital Hall, UP Theater, UP Diliman on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m., Sept. 8 at 3 p.m., Sept. 11 at 3 and 7 p.m., Sept. 13 at 7 p.m., Sept. 14 at 3 and 7 p.m., and Sept. 15 at 3 p.m. For inquiries, call Nick at 0917-9571985 or e-mail uprep@egroups.com.

Global comm experts at forum

THE WORLD president of the International Association of Business Communicators, Julie Freeman, and the Asia Pacific IABC regional head Bish Mukherjee will speak at the forum on corporate governance and ethical business practice on Sept. 6 at the Tower Club, Philamlife Building, Paseo de Roxas, Makati. The other speakers at the forum include Dr. Jesus Estanislao, chair of the Presidential Governance Advisory Council, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, Philippine Stock Exchange president Ernest Leung, Securities and Exchange commissioner Joselia Poblador, Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq and Watson Wyatt managing director Jose Jesus Deduque. The forum is sponsored by Mirant Philippines, San Miguel Corp., the Philippine Daily Inquirer, BusinessWorld, Meralco, Ayala Corp., and BPI. For reservations, call 845-5380, 816-9439 and 885-7085.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Telefax 813-4692; Website www.pdic.gov.ph, Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites all authorized manufacturers, distributors, dealers and suppliers of high speed printers and contractors and providers of preventive and remedial maintenance to bid for the following:

	Qty
I. HIGH SPEED PRINTERS	10
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	3,600,000.00

II. PREVENTIVE AND REMEDIAL MAINTENANCE	
A. Without Supplier's Warranty	
1 Pentium desktop computers	269
2. File servers	9
3. Printers	
Dot matrix	157
High speed	4
Inkjet /deskjet	10
Laser	8
Line printers	3
4 UPS	183
5 Notebook computers (on-call)	63
B. With Supplier's Warranty (outer surface cleaning only)	
1 Pentium desktop computers	100
2. File servers	7
3. Printers	
Inkjet /deskjet	1
Laser	19
4. Laptops/notebooks (on-call)	43
Total Budget in Philippine Pesos	538,100.00

The Request for Proposal shall be made available to interested bidders starting September 6-13, 2002, 8:00am to 5:00pm at the 3rd Floor, Information Technology Department, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City from Ms. Jackie Jose or Ms. Marcel Flores. The prebid conference shall be held at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on September 16, 2002 at 10:30 am to clarify/explain any provision stipulated in the Request for Proposal.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and postqualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis. Only eligible bidders shall be considered for bid awards. Bidders whose Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on the net working capital is less than the approved budget or PhP538,100 shall be disqualified. NFCC shall be computed based on the following formula:

NFCC = [(current assets – current liabilities) x 10] – value of all outstanding or on-going contracts and contracts awarded yet to be started

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

(Sgd.) CATHERINE F. BAMBA
Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 5 & 12, 2002)

Nikkei ends at 18-yr low on economic worries

TOKYO—Tokyo's Nikkei average plunged to an 18-year low by Tuesday's close after banks and other major blue-chip issues took a beating on worries over the dimming economic outlook in Japan and the United States.

The Nikkei finished 3.2 percent lower at 9,217.04, falling below the previous year-to-date closing low of 9,420.85 marked in February. It was the lowest close since Sept. 19, 1983.

"The market fell prey to sellers after investors fled in the midst of the vacuum of trading incentives after a holiday on Wall Street," said Kazunori Jinnai, general manager at Daiwa Securities SMBC's equity department.

Among the hardest hit were Mizuho Holdings, Japan's biggest banking group, and its peers.

The banking sector subindex tumbled more than 5 percent, the second biggest sector loser after the brokerage index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's first section, helping send the capital-weighted Topix index down 2.81 percent to 904.24.

The Topix, often used by Japanese banks and other big investors to gauge their portfolio performances, has fallen 15 percent since the start of the current business year on April 1.

"Share prices are still a major concern for banks," said HSBC Securities analyst Hironari Nozaki.

Japanese banks have large holdings of stocks in their portfolios, and falls in the market eat into their capital base, increasing worries about the nation's fragile financial system in the run-up to the end of the first half on Sept. 30.

Mizuho sank 9.24 percent to 226,000 yen and rival Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. slumped 7.95 percent to 556.

High-tech exporters were also hit hard.

Nasdaq 100 futures on Globex were down one percent in late Asian trading hours, indicating a weak opening for the US stock market later. It was closed on Monday for Labor Day.

Consumer electronics giant Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. fell 4.39 percent to 1,350 yen, a seven-year low, while rival Sony Corp. lost 1.76 percent to 5,010.

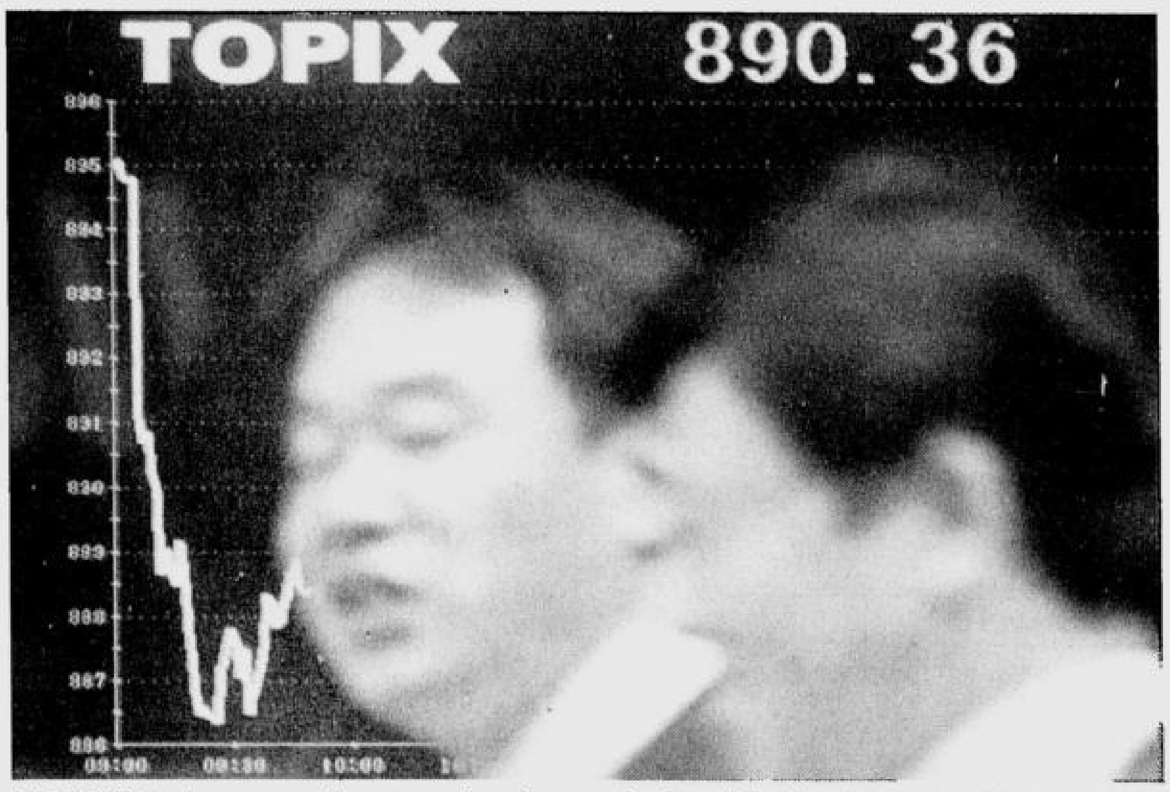
Another notable loser was Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc., which extended its losing skid to six straight sessions, falling 1.46 percent on the day to 2,360.

The utility stoked public anxiety over nuclear safety in Japan after admitting late last week that it failed to accurately report cracks at its reactors in the late 1980s and 1990s.

Since then, its share price has fallen nearly 6 percent.

On Tuesday, decliners overwhelmed advancers 1,359 to 80 on the first section. Volume picked up, with 742.18 million shares changing hands, well up on Monday's total of 500.28 million shares and the highest since Aug. 22.

"Part of our weakness lies in concerns about the cloudy economic outlook in the US but the key problem is that there are still no signs of a sustainable economic recovery in Japan," said Masanori Hoshina, head of global portfolio marketing at BNP Paribas. *Reuters*



JAPANESE businessmen walk past an electric quotation board flashing the key Topix index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in front of a securities company in downtown Tokyo. Share prices here continued their dive, with the Nikkei-225 down 117.65 points, or 1.3 percent, in morning trading, after hitting a 19-year low the previous day, with the Topix index, which shows all stocks in the exchange, falling below the 900-point level for the first time since December 1984. AFP

TWO Thai women wear cardboard hats at one of many McDonald's in downtown Bangkok, as a Thai customer waits for his order. McDonald's Corp. has said it will cut the amount of unhealthy fats in its trademark fries and other fried foods by almost half in an effort to improve the health value of its food. AFP

Opec seeks 'reasonable' oil prices

RIO DE JANEIRO—Opec president Rilwanu Lukman said Tuesday that the main oil producers did not want high prices to endanger world growth as he sought to reassure consumer states and markets.

The head of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said he wanted to see a "fair and reasonable" price of between $22 and $28 a barrel.

He told the World Petroleum Summit, however, that while Opec did not want to undermine the international economy, prices that were too low would limit the development of the oil industry.

The price of oil fell in London on Tuesday amid uncertainty over the US stance toward Iraq and whether Opec will change output when it meets later this month. Reference North Sea crude for October delivery eased to $27.23 a barrel by early afternoon from $27.54 at the previous close.

Lukman refused to speculate on what would happen when Opec meets in Osaka, Japan, from Sept. 19.

The Opec president also did not give Opec's view of any military action that the United States might carry out against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Raising the case of his native Nigeria, Lukman said the government might highlight "special circumstances" to obtain an increase in its Opec production quota.

Abdallah Jum'ah, president and chief executive of Aramco, the major Saudi oil firm, highlighted to the conference how Saudi Arabia, which has one quarter of the world's oil reserves and produces seven million barrels a day, could increase production by 3 million barrels a day.

He also emphasized how during the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Arabia had guaranteed international oil supplies.

He said that even if there were troubles around the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf during any conflict then Saudi Arabia could send its oil through the Red Sea.

The main theme of the conference in Rio de Janeiro is the social responsibility of major oil firms. The Opec president said the organization's main responsibility was to provide cheap energy.

But he rejected an idea launched Monday by India's Petroleum Minister Ram Naik that developed and developing countries should pay different prices for oil.

The conference which brings together 3,000 delegates from 70 countries ends Thursday. *AFP*

McDonald's trims the fats, but calories still the same

OAK BROOK, Illinois—McDonald's Corp. said Tuesday that it would cut the amount of unhealthy fats in its trademark fries and other fried foods by almost half in an effort to improve the health value of its food.

Beginning in October, the fast-food chain will switch to an "improved cooking oil," with a higher content of polyunsaturated fats and a lower amount of the artery-clogging trans-fatty acids and saturated acids.

The move will cut fatty acids in McDonald's fries by 48 percent, reduce saturated fats by 16 percent and increase polyunsaturated fats by 167 percent, delivering "health dividends" for the customer, the chain said.

"It's a win-win for our customers because they are getting the same great French fry taste along with an even healthier nutrition profile," said Mike Roberts, president of McDonald's USA.

Trans-fatty acids and saturated acids are associated with a higher level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol—a risk factor for heart attack and stroke.

Cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of Americans.

"It may seem like a small change, but it has huge implications because so many Americans go to this type of fast-food restaurant," said Gregory Miller, president of the American College of Nutrition.

The chain has 13,000 outlets in the United States and 30,000 worldwide, serving 46 million people each day.

Robert Eckel, the American Heart Association's point man on the subject, called it a "modest step in the right direction," and said he hoped other fast-food chains would step up and provide healthier fast-food choices also.

But he also pointed out that the new cooking oil would not reduce the fat content or calories in a serving of McDonald's fries, Chicken McNuggets, Filet-O-Fish, Hash Browns or crispy chicken sandwich.

"The public needs to remain alert to the portion size and calorie content of fast foods," said Eckel, who heads up the association's nutrition council.

With a serving of fries accounting for anywhere from 210 to 610 calories (small/super-size order) and obesity reaching epidemic levels in the United States, all the experts warned that consumers should include fast food only as part of a balanced diet.

"This won't make McDonald's French fries a health food," said Margo Wootan, spokesperson for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, noting that a large order will still have 540 calories and almost a third of a day's worth of artery-clogging fat.

One in four Americans is obese according to recent research, and obesity is also a major risk factor for coronary heart disease, contributing to elevated blood pressure and cholesterol levels, according to the AHA.

Still, even the CPSI commended McDonald's for its actions Tuesday, something which it has been calling for since 1993.

As to timing, McDonald's said it based its decision on a critical mass of scientific evidence showing the value of polyunsaturated fats. *AFP*

More in Singapore wanting to leave, new survey shows

SINGAPORE—Singapore faces a brain-drain, with more than 20 percent of its people, mainly professionals, considering quitting the country, according to a survey released Wednesday.

In a nine-month period, the number of Singaporeans wanting to permanently leave the city-state rose from 14 to 21 percent, market researcher ACNielsen said, comparing surveys taken in October last year and last July.

For most of the period, Singapore was in recession, with employers variously invoking wage freezes, wage cuts and layoffs to fight the impact of the economic slump.

"The state of the economy may have forced many to consider other options and look to greener pastures," said Sum Yim Ling, ACNielsen's Singapore executive director for customized research services.

"Predictably, (the) majority of those who expressed an intention to migrate were the PMEBs (professionals, managers, executives and businessmen), those higher educated and in the higher income groups." Nearly half said they wanted to go to Australia, with New Zealand a distant second at 12 percent. Other destinations mentioned included the United States (8 percent), Malaysia (7 percent), China (6 percent), and Canada (4 percent).

The ACNielsen survey reflects other local polls showing about one in five Singaporeans has considered emigrating, citing factors such as high living costs and a stressful education system for their children.

The surveys were taken before Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong provoked a rare public outcry in Singapore with a National Day speech describing people who were leaving the country when the chips were down as "quitters." *AFP*

What's Learned
With Pleasure
Is Learned
Full Measure

Wise words indeed! No one wants to sit through another stiff, boring, sleep-inducing training. AESOD believes the best learning comes in an environment of fun. Working with mnemonics, our AESOD's Tables guarantee focused, enjoyable training. It's no wonder 99.9% of our participants rate our programs as 'excellent' or 'very good'. Join us- learn while you enjoy!

Fees include all workshop materials, handouts, AESOD's Tables, certificate, CD-ROM MTV, snacks, and buffet lunch at the Bahia Ballroom, Intercontinental Hotel Manila.

Compelling Corporate Selling
(October 10-11, 2002,

Poor sales? This is a common complaint of managers. Let's be fair- **"If you don't train them, don't blame them".**

This program will help sales professionals achieve increased levels of sales efficiency and effectiveness. The workshop is for those who want to improve their success in selling to accounts that require multiple sales calls to many decision-makers. It helps one spend less time "selling" and more time meeting client needs via effective questioning techniques. It advocates a mindset of providing solutions to customers instead of pushing products. It reduces uncertainties and trial and error. Employing the 'hear-see-do' method, participants learn to use tools that increase the quality and quantity of sales opportunities.

Convincing Collections
(October 29-30, 2002)

"Pay every debt as if God wrote the bill." Unfortunately, not all our customers adhere to this maxim by Emerson. And we have to learn how to deal with these customers!

A sale is not a sale until you get paid. The challenges of collection adversely affect cash flow and the survival of a company. This program will make participants learn and apply the skills of collection and payment negotiation. Attendees will learn to avoid delinquency, use appropriate techniques and counter clients' excuses. Aside from these, participants will develop a positive mindset on collection, and learn how to balance profitability with customer service.

AESOD
T R

Other Scheduled Programs
(for in-house programs, visit our website at www.aesod.com)

Terrific Time Management (Sept. 16-17, 2002)
Tantalizing Telemarketing (Sept. 26-27, 2002)

☑ Yes! I want to enroll in:
☐ TerrificTime Management
☐ Compelling Corporate Selling
☐ Tantalizing Telemarketing
☐ Convincing Collections

Please reserve ___ seats for the following participant/s: (Please call us at 815-1027 for additional names)
Name of Company:
Telephone No:
Name of Participant
email:
Name of Participant
email:

Terms:
Early Bird Rate of PhP 5,500 when paid on or before Sept. 27, 2002 (Compelling Corporate Selling) / Oct. 15, 2002 (Convincing Collections)
Regular Rate of PhP 6,500 when reserved after Sept. 27, 2002 (Compelling Corporate Selling) / Oct. 15, 2002 (Convincing Collections)
No cancellations seven days before the workshop Participation may be transferred to another employee in the same company

FAX this form at 8151075 or call 815-1027 to 28 and look for Ellen. You may also email us at admin@aesod.com

PDI 09-05-03

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter
P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
"Computerized Systems"
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
DERMA PEEL WARTS KELOID
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124to25 9am-7pm

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

Repair Const 09172722988

We Build Houses 417-8012

HEALTH/FITNESS

Weight Less
Call 521-9683 / 0917-4770408

MASSAGE

2002 RANCHO 8325228

AKHIN THAI MASSAGE#0917 4116004 Mla#8347357. Cebu

★ 323-3269 ★
MALE FACTOR

★ BONG 0917-4734363 ★

HHMS MALE 7314018

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8518650 ; 0916-4590734

JV MALE 24hrs Service 09202387878

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

UNWIND 752-0437

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 851-9937 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

D'Millenium M/F T9347633

Edward 7289285 09183257044

Lady D Health Beauty Shop Therapy Massage Body Scrub Footspa 09164521091

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Scorpion Massg 4372542

SUPERMAN / 0919-6116124

Wizard Massage 4213197

TUTORIAL LESSONS

• Adept Tutors @ 883-3671

• LIGHT 5301315 5268216 •

MISCELLANEOUS

DeJesus Plumbing T-7833540

IRAH 24Hrs. 0917-8912920

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 732-6750

Best Maids 4111593/7123501

EFFICIENT Well Trained
ALL AROUND MAIDS
8429807 • 7722353 • 7724213

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

HONEST TRAINED Maids
Call Fe 853-3505 • 853-3504

Maid Yaya Boy Intl Cook 7572089

Maid/Boy/Yaya 7320405

Maids Boy Driver 4128728 3664375

PACIFIC: MAIDS, ETC SINCE 1948 T:7312672

Provincial All Around
MAIDS
Call Josie 8737055 • 8735062

Provincial Maids 1st Timer Manila 9124701 • 9124706

ANGEL'S HANDS MAIDS W/NBI&BI 8834270 4213253

•Reliable Maids 8330946-47

TRUSTED KASAMBAHAY 7423378

TRUSTED QUALITY MAIDS W/NBI & BI 421-3828

YAYA MIDWIFE MAID 8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447699

LBAHAY 7113540

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

NEAR ROCKWELL
LOT AREA 115
CONTACT # 7285269

PASIG

5 Units Apt. 5.9M 6557772

OTHER AREAS

Elysian Homes Meycauayan Bul. Call 3243550 / 9626679

Laguna Bel Air-3 0917-9114250

LOT

KALOOCAN

CAPITOL HOMES II cor lot nr SM Fairview cash or 1year to pay Call 0918-9265779

QUEZON CITY

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots New Phase
204-290m² @ P9.500-P12.160
Pay 20%(in 2 months)
Bal 5 yrs. Mo. Interest
HSES & LOTS - 3BR 3TB
150 - 300 FA 200-300 LA @
P6M P13M 2 yrs - 10 yrs
Term w/ Complete Facilities
★9319160 9319117 T.Banez

RIZAL

Antipolo Ideal 4 Resort RUSH Sale P1,250/m² 6557772

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MAKATI

FOR "ILOILO RESIDENTS'
Own a 2BR Condo in Manila
Nr. Makati & Megamall
READY 4 OCCUPANCY
Only 9+++/mo. thru bank
VISIT R EXHIBIT IN SARABIA MANOR HOTEL Sept. 3 to 6
Call (02) 888-3333 OR
ERIC PALICO 0917-8433742

SALCEDO VILLAGE MKTI 1BR FFurn Park FA-73sm nice P3.5M Neg., PRINCE TOWER, back of Ateneo, 0917-8124693 687-1699 Johnny 817-1154
BROKERS WELCOMED

MANILA

NEAR ST. SCHO
BNew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge
P3.370M up 8903461 loc 34

Rush Sale Park Avenue Mansion 8132083 - ZITA

PASIG

ORTIGAS CTR 2BR Sale/Rent Furn or FF 412-1825

TEKTITE 109m² 4M w/ 1cpkg 266m² 7.5M 4carpks 4121825

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.4M 9132224

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

•P5.5T 1BR Proj6 T-9267383

PROJECT 8 new P8T 1BR 1TB with garage call 929-2207

HOUSE

OTHER AREAS

2 Units P3T-3.5T T#8696478

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

Where Convenience and Elegance Meet
KASSEL VILLAS
Zabarte Road, Novaliches
Reservation Fee: P10,000 only
No Downpayment
Low Monthly Amortization

Developer:
EHPI Development Corporation
For Particulars Call: 961-7069 / 961-7521 / 983-6350 / 871-8318 / 941-0701 / 962-5432 / 939-9419
WELCOME BROKERS AND AGENTS

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BNEW MKTI CONDO-11K
OXFORD SUITES FF
ELEGANT W/ NICE VIEW
10MINS.FR.ROCKWELL
NR BUENDIA & MKTI AVE.
7594091*7522580
0917-8381928

CLASSICA TOWER-123BR Salcedo Village, Makati, 43-157m² 18-70K,UF/FF 7594091*7522580*7592335

Condo for Rent w/ 1 Bedroom Furnish •Call:8403159•

Condo Mkti 4380487 9T/mo.

Essensa - Luxury 3BR
Fort Bonifacio. 290m²
Available in FF or SF
7594091*7522580*7592335

new studio/2BR/clinic/office very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St., Mkti. nr Buendia. Call Rose 843-9418 or 536-9509

MANDALUYONG

16T 2BR Wack² 09189242622

QUEZON CITY

PYP condo nr Cubao MRT/ Araneta Ctr new 1br ff ac w/ prkg 896-0327 Grace

FOR LEASE

Bank site 4lease 6466256 F. Blumentrit cor M. Salvador San Juan MM

FOR RENT OR LEASE
Barracks for construction workers at Fort Bonifacio within 2,000 square meters properly fenced. Can accommodate 400 persons. Contact person: Col. Jaime Oliquino General Manager AFPOVAI Tel. No. 887-2753 / 887-4040 Cellfone: 0918-9289924

ROOM & BOARD

Nr LaSalle Big BR 523-8934

Nr SM CT a/c new 9271821

BEDSPACE

DORM IN A CONDO-4K
BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR
V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO
ALSO AVAIL. 4RENT:
1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS
7522580*0917-8370184

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINESS RENTAL

LRI Business Plz Reposo Mktl Gym/Bar/Spa/Resto/Cafe •805-5470/8114436 • M-F

MEDICAL PLZ OFC 40-75sqm Sale/Rent 412-1825

WANTED TO LEASE

PROPERTY OWNERS:
• For Immediate Occupancy •
EXPATS looking for houses in Forbes Dasma, Urdaneta condo units in Rockwell, Essensa, Pacific Plaza Tower One Roxas Triangle
759-4091•75[illegible]77•759-2335•752-2680

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97CVIC LXI P340T 6450515

99CVIC VTEC P448T 6450515

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

NISSAN

VANETTE dsl 175T 926-7433

OTHER CAR BRANDS

★Pajero, Delica, Vans
★Serena, Caravan, Largo
★Lite-Ace, H-Ace, Surf, etc
★Nissan Terrano
★Trucks all models
All units A1 conditioned
No hidden extra cost
Quality convertion
Customer satisfaction guaranteed
ACROSS MARKETING
#40 Sumulong Hiway Mambugan, Antipolo City 6822858 /66/09168209705

Trooper Terrano Pajero Town/ Hi Ace Prado Delica Surf Safari Elf Canter Bongo Porter Suzuki TxPD A1 912-0647 / 0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100
Coaster Bus
Call 631-3496 • 637-7396

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta Mazda, Sentra
Manila H O 5368822 / 3039789
Q.C. Br. 4251391 9262314

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

CHEAP VAN 8254058 8261045

FCU CAR RENTAL
U DRIVE OR W/DRIVER
HONDA VAN LANCER
Tel 722-8434 / 722-8438

HI ACE VANS 8252988

HI-ACE L-300 9296250

Udrive w/driver car Van Revo Coaster 8908667-69 www.avalonrentacar.com

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 570-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

Bnew Starex MB100 9403535

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX MB HIACE 8276605

TOYCO TRANS SELF DRIVE CARS/VANS RENTALS 8006595

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262700

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7226942/43

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dalma Pupy 2mo. w/Vacc 0917-6103771

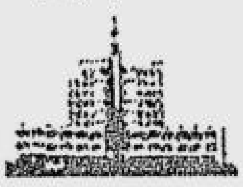
DOG TRAINER 4528681

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

READY FOR OCCUPANCY



EMERALD TWR
COR TUAZON & J.P. RIZAL ST. PROJ. 4 QUEZON CITY
NEAR U.P. • ATENEO MIRIAM COLLEGE
OFF. / RES'L. CONDO
SALE OR LEASE TO OWN
PLAN-UP EASY TERMS
ONLY 100T TO MOVE IN
437-1549 • 421-3105

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

22T Pool Sr New Compll 776750

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

3TON AIRCON 5338848

B/Sell Educ'l 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
09178142309/7269607/4123543

DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

LANDBANK BONDS
WE BUY @ 100% of VALUE
643-5529, 0917-7922363 Ver

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY
GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8380946 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL FULLY PD EDUC PLAN GIE 780-0106 / 0917-7939632

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

F-ESCORT • 0916-4044479

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC PERSONNEL 18/45 w w/o exp direct Hiring Call Ms Daisy 4216507

Building Manager
Look for Ms. Sen Villanueva at 527-1550 or 7446

COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS
Pasay City
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY
Pursuant to Mandate of R.A. 7041
One (1) Legislative Staff Officer II (Personnel Analyst) Item No. 65-1 SG16-1 Qualification Standards: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job and CS Professional. Previous applicants need not apply. Send Comprehensive Resume' with 2x2 colored picture to: Commission on Appointments, 6F PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd, Pasay City

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★OFC STAFF 18/45 w w/o exp Start ASAP 9134470 JOAN

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LRD-153	No. 95 Xavier St. cor. Ortigas Ave., San Juan, Metro Manila	170 sq.m. condominium unit (with 3BR and 3TB) (CCT No. 10964-R) at Suite 12-B, Penthouse (12th Floor), Avalon Condominium	P 7,435,200.00
LDA-137-a	No. 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	253.70 sq.m. two (2) adjoining parcels of residential lot (TCT Nos. 143256 and 143257) with building and improvement	P 2,492,600.00
MGT-131	Interior Suter St., Sta. Ana, Manila (back of Sta. Ana Fire Station)	124 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. 156194)	P 717,000.00
MGT-119	L4 Blk. 3 Violago Homes, Batasan Subd., Capitol District, Quezon City	186 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. RT-123746) with buildings and improvements	P 657,000.00
VAB-72	L5 Blk. 5 Queensland Village II, Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches, Quezon City	42 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. N-211716) with buildings and improvements	P 314,200.00
OZAMIZ			
VPI-85-b	Ledesma Ext., Bo. of Centro, Ozamiz City	549 sq.m. residential lot (TCT No. T-26089) with buildings and improvements	P 4,896,600.00
RIZAL			
VCP-88	Brgy. Quisao, Pililla	28,720 sq.m. adjoining agri-lots (TCT Nos. M-100249 & M-100250) with building and improvements	P 4,336,600.00
LJG-154	L31 Blk. 14, Montano Drive, Palos Verde Garden Heights Subd., Bo. Seven Hills, Antipolo City	300 sq.m. vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-301965)	P 760,000.00
ZAMBALES			
LDA-137-b	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz, Zambales	6,639 sq.m. agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-53665)	P 2,627,800.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
VCP-53	FCIE Compound, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	7 units various machinery and equipment for fabrication of bolts and nuts	P 15,000.00 to P 428,800.00/ unit
VPI-85-c1-c4	Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	4 units various transportation equipment (2 cargo trucks, 1 payloader and 1 forklift)	P 72,900.00 to P 292,500.00/ unit
LJG-131-a & b	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Milling machine and 1 Lathe machine used in the fabrication of local spare parts of industrial machines	P 98,400.00 and P 92,400.00, respectively
VPI-85-c5	Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	One lot shop and maintenance equipment (5 units)	P 69,500.00
VPI-85-c6-c8	Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	5 units various equipment (1 truck scale, 1 generating set and 3 platform scales)	P 4,900.00 to P 56,300.00/unit

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from SAM's Acquired Assets Unit.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI -- September 5, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

★Urgent Ofc Personnel★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Rica

★Urgent Office Staff can work Immed. 4370152 Elsa

Looking for MUSIC SHOWBAND with BLOWING Must have ARB for JAPAN. Contact Ms.Bess 896-0794/0918-9038633

OFC ADM STAFF 9134470 FE

OFC STAFF 09165218635 ECHO

OFC STAFF 18-45 W/WO EXP ★9121408 ANGEL ASAP★

OFC STF 09194639391 OLGA

OFC STF MR. RICO 5512388

• PROMO •
F-5'2"/M-5'6",College Level. Speaks Engish, Pampanga & Cainta Area 8501599 Look for Ms. Gena

SEC/CLERK 7136116 MS. RED

Travel Assistant w/Amadeus /Abacus Knowledge 821-3676

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC STAFF 20-45YO W/WO EXP 9134470 MERCY

Wanted: Exp. Audio / Video Eqip Repair Tech. Call 6404661 Mon-Fri

Wanted SALES REP
For Bag Materials
Tel 534-1593 • 0916-5850953

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late John S. Rosado Sr., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per extrajudicial settlement with WAIVER Doc. No. 100, Page No. 21, Book No. II, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Jose C. Cahila of Makati
PDI- Aug. 22,29, Sept 5, 2002

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO C. AGUADO has been settled extrajudicially by his heirs per Doc#40, Page#9, Book#XVIII, Series of 2002 by Notary Public Angelo G. Medina of Pasig City
(PDI- Sept. 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT Fr. Gemma Santos & Family

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Business w/Travel 0916-9368917

Calling All Networkers /Network Leaders All Over Phils. A New Company to Launch in Oct. Position Now •Call/Text (0918)3224467•

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME 8531008 09178901851 earn-and-travel.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

H2O REFILLING STATION D' HOTTEST BUSS. 09202662123

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo:
Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs old
• Tel # 525-0234 •

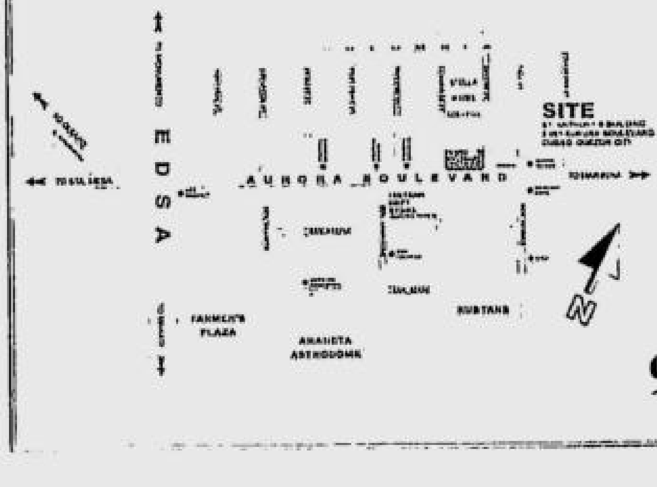
MONEY MARKET 15 T 42% ROI, M ONLY SHORT TERM 7122718, AM 0917-3441133 GEORGE

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

Secure Ur Fncial Future Singaporeans lking for distributors of lamps w/esntial oil 09173315689, 09198028950 09164887060 fr. Sept.5 - 9.2002

WEEK-END MRKT.
AT ROXAS BLVD.
START. OCT. 12, P200/day,
Hall8, Phil. Trade Center
Roxas Blvd. (across DFA)
Inquire at D Site
or Call Tel# 4101782
0917-8400026

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS



Aurora branch
is now open
to serve your
Classified Ads
requirements.

For inquiries,
please call
912-9008 to 11

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
Tel. Number 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
845-2341 or 845-2342
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.)
CASKETS
... because they deserve
only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

ISABEL ESCOBAR RAMOS

of Guinayangan, Quezon

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 28, 2002 at the age of 86.

Loving wife of TIMOTEO C. RAMOS (†)
Her children: Redencion & George Stock,
Ruby & Renato Bedaña,
Remberto & Corazon Castillo, and
Ricardo & Lourdes Juarez
thanks and sincerely convey their deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended funeral rites and condoled with them in their moment of grief.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1780
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu • Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City • Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City • Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City • Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705;
781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086, (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City •
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City • Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City • Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas • Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City • Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011 • Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite • Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2875
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels. 825-1296, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila • Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City • Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite • Tels. (046) 471-3386, (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City • Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal • Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-6529, 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682, (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City • Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City • Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila • Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City • Tels. 372-5084, 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila • Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438; 400-5394

Atty. SOFIO UMALI RECTO

of Tiaong, Quezon and Marikina City

Joined his Creator on September 3, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Atty. Concepcion Montes-Recto**; children and children-in-law **Joji** and **Lani**, **Teena** and **Ed**, **Buddy** and **Maricel**; grandchildren **Kristine**, **Yenzo**, **Agot** and **Ricci** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the White Plains Chapel, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Brandito R. Quijano

2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course I have kept the faith."*

Born on September 10, 1957 and passed away in the Grace of our Lord on September 3, 2002.

His dearest wife **Josie**; children **Jod**, **Jayson - Chitlyn & Bransie**, **Jeanne**, **Jaybee**, **Brandy Jr.**, and **Joza**; parents **Johnny** and **Norma**; sister: **Glenda - Stephen**; relatives and friends will surely miss and always remember him.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 7, 2002, Saturday, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Necrological Service at Chapel B-7, Second Floor.

Instead of flowers, donations for the construction of Adonai Formsquare Church in Barangay Sauyo, Quezon City will be greatly appreciated.

CLASSIFIEDS

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
G/F MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 927-3627, 435-4231, 920-5521 loc. 3591

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all qualified suppliers to participate in the bidding for the supply and delivery of MWSI Employee's Office and Field Uniforms, as follows:

1.1. Female (Executive, Managers, Supervisors and Rank & File) - 482 sets

1.	1 piece	Blazer
2.	2 pieces	Skirts
3.	2 pieces	Pants
4.	4 pieces	Blouses

1.2. Male (Executive, Managers, Supervisors and Rank & File) 1,923 sets

Set A - Office based:

1.	2 pieces	Long Sleeves Barong
2.	2 pieces	Short Sleeves Barong
3.	4 pieces	Pants (Slacks)

Set B - Office/Field Work (Dual Function):

1.	2 pieces	Short Sleeves Barong
2.	2 pieces	Pants (Slacks)
3.	2 pieces	Shirt Jack
4.	4 pieces	V-Neck T-Shirt
5.	2 pieces	Maong Pants

Set C - Field - Construction Based:

1.	2 pieces	Long Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirt
2.	2 pieces	Short Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirts
3.	1 piece	Jacket
4.	3 pieces	Short Pants (Aqua Type)
5.	2 pieces	Industrial Pants (Gym Type)

Set D - Field Non-Construction Based:

1.	4 pieces	Short Sleeves/V-Neck T-Shirt
2.	1 piece	Jacket
3.	1 piece	Industrial Pants (Gym Type)
4.	2 pieces	Maong Pants

Bid Documents can be secured at the Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable Bidding Fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00), on or before **September 16, 2002**. Payment can be made in the form of Cash or Manager's Check addressed to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted on **September 19, 2002**, 10:00 a.m. at MWSI-HROD Seminar Room.

The submission of Financial Proposal is scheduled on **October 11, 2002**, 2:00 p.m.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason/s, waive any and all informalities therein, and accept the bid it deems advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
AVP - Corporate Logistics

(PDI - Sept 5 & 6 2002)

Send your resumés instantly.
JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

National Power Corporation
GENCO 2

INVITATION TO BID

For the Sale of Sludge/Waste Oils

Located at NPC-BFORF Compound, inside the CALTEX Refinery Complex
Municipality of SAN PASCUAL, Province of BATANGAS

"CASH, AS IS-WHERE IS, TAKE ALL and CLEAN-UP"

Date of Bidding : September 17, 2002
Time : 10:00 A.M.
Place of Bidding : Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza-Natalia Bldg., Naguilian Road, Baguio City

Item/Description	Min. Bid Price
One (1) lot Sludge/Waste Oils, including Clean-up and Do-Gassing works, approximately 13,651,326 liters more or less, broken down as follows: 1) Combination of sludge/waste oil contained inside the BFORF's Three (3) fuel oil tanks, approximately 3,641,363 liters, more or less. 2) Contaminated water contained inside the BFORF's tanks, approximately 9,648,973 liters, more or less. 3) Sludge/Waste oils inside 76 drums and including all sludge oil contents and waste oils accumulated inside the oil and water separators, oil recovery tanks, booster pumps/motor areas and all other waste oils to be taken in the required clean-up, approximately 360,990 liters, more or less.	P 15,120,000.00

Issuance of Bid Forms including Bid Terms and Conditions at Php 200.00 per set will be on September 5, 2002 at NPC-GENCO II, c/o Mr. O.C. VERANO with Telephone Nos.: 445-4541 to 44 local 217/239. Deadline for the issuance of Bid Forms is 4:30 P.M. on September 16, 2002.

Interested parties are requested to attend the pre-bid conference on September 16, 2002 at 3:00 P.M. at Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Bldg., Baguio City. All inquiries regarding the above should be coursed in writing to Mr. O.C. VERANO with office address at NPC-GENCO II, WTTDS, Plaza Natalia Building, #51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 10:00 A.M. on September 17, 2002 at the Conference Room, NPC-GENCO II, Plaza Natalia Bldg., Naguilian Road, Baguio City and shall then and there be opened for the sale of the items bidden. Only duly accredited DENR Recyclers/Treaters and/or Haulers shall be allowed to participate.

Please note that the GENCO II/National Power Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality found therein and to accept or reject such bids as may be advantageous to the interests of the Corporation.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. A. A. PADAEN**
Manager, HR & Admin. Svcs. Div.
& Chairman, RAMSUC

September 5 & 6, 2002 – Inquirer

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:
HEAD OFFICE
897-8808 loc. 514, 516, 899-4425, 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342
MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

ELECTRONIC MESSAGING AND WORKGROUP SOLUTIONS

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders for the supply, installation & customization of a groupware software application package capable of efficiently managing workflow processes and providing for a secure and reliable electronic messaging system for the Main Office in Quezon City. **This is a re-publication.**

Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders will be provided with the Request for Proposals (RFP) and will be invited to attend the pre-bidding conference. To cover the cost of the RFP, eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on 23 September 2002.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.**
Senior Vice President
and Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 5, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Petitioner,
-versus- SSC CASE NO. 5-15315-02
TAGALOG SHOE FACTORY/
D' TAGALOG FOOTWEAR/
CIRIACO G. CRUZ, represented by his
legal heirs FELICIANA R. CRUZ, et. al.,
Respondents.
x--x

SUMMONS

TO: MR. FERNANDO R. CRUZ and
Ms. AMELIA C. CHAVES

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your answer to the Petition filed by the Social Security System, which seeks the revival of judgment rendered in SSC Case No. 11409, finding the legal heirs of Ciriaco G. Cruz liable for the unremitted SS contributions and penalty as well as damages on behalf of SSS member Juan Eumague.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioner through Atty. Cyrene C. Tinae at SSS Zamboanga Branch Office, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and the Officer-in-Charge, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, August 22, 2002

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Sept 5 2002)

'Belting' it out on the way to Kalinga

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

HAVE you ever tried singing while in motion? If you find it hard enough maintaining the right notes while sitting still, wait till you experience XUVi's "videoke on wheels."

Based on what we did this weekend, we found out that whitewater rafting and singing while traveling really didn't differ much. Though one activity was definitely "wet and wild," the other one was simply "wild and wacky." You just can't sing seriously while your gut wrenches through the winding passes of Northern Luzon, that's for sure.

We first belted out classics like "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," "Lift Up Your Hands" and "Kastilyong Buhangin" at the North Luzon Expressway. But we had to stop the sentimental favorites when we stopped over at a store in Nueva Ecija, and our coffin-colored XUVi parked right in front of a funeral home. Ugh. So we switched CDs and proceeded to destroy our reputations with Scorpions, Billy Joel and other slow rock tunes.

After "The Best of the Divas" we finally called it quits at the mike. Our driver (the ever-patient technician Rico Iratiel of Isuzu) was apparently having a tantrum and couldn't stand our shrill voices any longer. Fearing for our lives, we put in "The Mummy Returns" and just relaxed and watched a movie. That seemed to soothe Rico's nerves.

It was wonderful, though, to sing while speeding in excess of 100 kph. We missed our notes when we ran over potholes. We developed vibrattos on unpaved roads. We either sang louder, or softer, when Rico overtook and swerved. What a rush, indeed.

The most wonderful thing about having the mike and singing it out is how quickly time seems to pass. We didn't notice that we had already passed through the heavy traffic of Bulacan and Pampanga. We were on our sixth CD when we stopped over at Dalton Pass.

Isuzu Philippines, with this latest entertainment attraction, obviously knows how to tickle Filipinos' funny bones. Well-known for their singing dexterity, Filipinos are given an opportunity to belt it out in the videoke entertainment system of the XUVi. Sporting an MPEG audio unit with single in-dash CD player, two 5.6-inch headrest mounted LCD monitors, two wireless microphones and a remote control, the 2.5-liter XUVi becomes a total entertainment venue for long hauls. You can sing, you can watch, you can sing along, or even heckle (if you're the front seat passenger or driver). Do anything, sans the booze, of course.

Some members of the motoring press were lucky to be given a chance to let it all out during the 10-hour trip to Kalinga and back for the Isuzu-Shell Whitewater Rafting Quest. As we took turns driving, microphones changed hands just as quickly.

Front seat passengers who didn't have the luxury of monitors had their lyrics dictated to them by the back seat passengers.

Singing, however, can either be an antidote or the fuel to road rage. It all depends on the singer and the song. Good thing there was no "My Way" track on board, the song having built up a nasty reputation of triggering ballroom brawls and pointless shootouts.

One of us singers got so carried away by his rendition of "Hotel California" that he stuck his head out the window and sang to passing motorists, throwing all caution (and decency) to the winds. The gasoline boy at the Shell Station at the North Expressway couldn't contain himself as he took sneak peeks inside our window and rocked along with Bon Jovi's "Always" while loading up our fuel. Did we violate any ordinances there? I don't think so. It hasn't been proven that singing blows up gas stations, though it does bring the house down at times.

When not teaching us about how to maximize the benefits of turning overdrives on and off in automatic gears, Rico jammed with us. However, he literally couldn't hold a mike to us "full-fledged" singers. He sang with the road in sight.

The XUVi wasn't tinted, so we didn't know if that was a good or bad thing. Motorists and pedestrians did turn their heads, possibly when Rico stepped on the brakes abruptly and we almost swallowed the mikes whole.

Each of us had his and her moment of glory, singing our own renditions of Tagalog and English classics, so we didn't mind the attention from our "passing" audience.

The voice we wished to hear, though, was that of Isuzu's EVP Hiroshi Ishino who never had a chance to sing with us.

The XUVi with videoke is available only with 4-speed automatic transmission and maintains the XUV exterior dimensions of 4,805 mm in length, 1,770 mm in width and 1,890 mm in height.

The XUVi howled aggressively on the outside. Except for its occasional hesitation on overtakes, it ran smoothly like the "talented" family vehicle it's supposed to be.

Now, if Isuzu could only find a way to install videoke systems on the rafts so that we could sing while shooting the rapids...Ishino-san, make it happen!

THE PICTURESQUE Tabuk unmindful of the lean, mean roaring machines

THE ISUZU convoy slugs it out at the rough road on the way to Chico River.

XUVi's "videoke on wheels"

ISUZU Philippines EVP Hiroshi Ishino, Adventure and Expedition Philippines Inc. trainer Val Camara and IPC senior manager for corporate affairs Myrna Gonzales enjoy the view at Tabuk, Kalinga.

What women drivers should know about vehicle service centers

WOMEN drivers may not have that much knowledge about cars and their inner mechanisms, but that is no excuse to be totally unaware of proper car maintenance through good service centers. Despite the best vehicle maintenance by the owner, problems may still occur with any mechanical device as complex as a car.

Prestone Brake Fluid and STP Car Care Products provides women the answers to their frequently asked questions:

How often do I need to send my car to the service center?

Once or twice a year, or when you reach 5,000, 10,000 kilometers or at the intervals specified by your car's manufacturer. Routine maintenance includes oil changes and tune-ups. For minor problems, first check the owner's manual. Find out about unusual problems, noises that may at first look or sound troublesome, but are actually normal, or easy to correct. Apart from these, you need to have your brakes periodically checked. Prestone recommends that you should religiously follow the car maintenance schedule.

When do I need to send my car to the repair shop?

If more extensive work is required, you may want to find either a dealer or a repair shop specializing in the type of repair you need. If you are in doubt about what the problem is, get a professional diagnosis.

Do not put off repairs that must be done immediately.. Prolonging the repair risks, leaving you stranded again on the road, poses a safety problem.

How do I choose a good service center or repair shop?

A reputable repair shop may do the job, instead of fly-by-night shops operating in the neighborhood. There are many factors involved in finding the right place to take your car for repair, but the search can be simplified if you know what you need. Try to find a service station that has convenient hours of operation and is close to where you live or work.

Check for your car's warranty. Usually, repair work covered by the warranty on new cars must be performed by a mechanic or an automotive service technician certified by the manufacturer. Often, the manufacturer will specify that warranty work must be performed at a dealer's service center. If your warranty has expired, you should look for a reputable shop that will perform competent repair work on your car at a competitive cost.

Make sure the shop you choose has the technology and skilled technicians required to properly diagnose the problem. If the shop does not have the proper equipment or the expertise to diagnose your car, you may be taking a substantial risk by having it repaired there.

What is the usual process of a car checkup like?

Describe your car's symptoms to the service adviser, and make sure he writes down everything you want checked. For example, if your car's response seems sluggish, make sure the symptom's description is written on the repair order. Do not hesitate to ask the mechanic to explain the problem.

Next, ask for an estimate of the repair costs, before any work is done. Don't be fooled by the "lowest estimate." There is a big difference in body shops. A low estimate could reflect an incomplete job.

You also have the option to get a second opinion from another mechanic. If you receive the same advice from both shops, you can feel more confident about the exact nature of the problem and the likely repair job can prevent a car from starting. And mechanics may attempt this more often with car owners who happen to be women.

Don't let the mechanic know, or be discreet in your lack of knowledge about your vehicle.

Watch your car while being repaired if possible. Do not leave valuables in your car while it is being worked on.

What do I need to check before I pay for the repairs?

Once the shop asks you to pick up your car, check a few items to make sure you are satisfied with the repair work, especially if you are dealing with a shop for the first time.

Examine the service receipt to see exactly what work was done. If there are any charges you do not recognize or understand, or the shop cannot explain a charge, it may not belong on your bill.

Ask to see parts that were replaced. Many reputable shops often keep the old, replaced parts until the customer picks up the car, so she can be shown exactly what was wrong.

If you are not satisfied with the repair job, return your car to the shop and explain the situation. The shop should correct or adjust the problem.

One of the best ways you can protect yourself against disreputable car repair shops and scams is to be a consumer who knows her rights. If you feel you have not been dealt with fairly or have been taken advantage of, you should complain to the manager of the repair shop, or the owner of the facility.

SPECIAL TRAINING FROM HARI

Eduardo Sta. Agueda III (left), dealer operations and warranty section of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), demonstrates the proper use of a Hi-Scan Pro scanner (a device that diagnoses engine performance) to service experts from various authorized Hari dealers during a recent seminar at the Hari National Technical Service Training Center. Hari is the exclusive Philippine distributor of Hyundai passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

Truck, car show slated this month

THE COUNTRY'S hottest last quarter motoring event is all set to unfold on Sept. 25-29 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by Trade Show International Inc., the Caltex Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car Show 2002 is a favorite among automotive-related companies that specializes in performance parts, motor racing components, suspension upgrades and vehicle customizing.

Such companies consider the show as the appropriate venue for promoting their world-class products or services to the motoring public. These corporate exhibitors get better exposure mileage for every peso spent and the immediate feedback they receive from show visitors on the acceptability of their product is vital to their overall marketing thrust.

Show theme

This year's show theme is all about "Muscle Cars Mania." The term "muscle car" was coined in the early '60s when American car companies were dishing out high-performance automobiles designed more for straight-line acceleration and speed.

These cars were equipped with 8-cylinder "mountain motors" displacing up to 450 cubic inches and rated at up to 500 horsepower in stock trim. As a tribute, the organizers will have several of these American muscle cars on display for the viewing pleasure of the show visitors.

The event's main highlight is the Open Class Competition for sport trucks and customized cars. The competition brings out the best in Filipino ingenuity, creativity and craftsmanship.

A full lineup of meticulously prepared monster trucks and customized cars with wild paint jobs, aero body kits, modified suspensions and race-prepared motors will vie for the much-coveted "Best of Show" award for each category.

Official search

This year will also mark the official search for Ms Motor Racing Philippines. The contest is open to all the "promotional girls" utilized by exhibitor companies during the show.

Those qualified should possess pleasing personalities, great looks and should be well-versed with the product or service that they are endorsing.

Several seminars and workshops on car customizing, mural painting, motor racing and automotive art are also scheduled during the five-day event. Invited speakers, who are considered pillars of their field of expertise, will discuss the different topics.

The show is sponsored by Caltex Delo and co-presented by Motolite Car Batteries. Gold sponsor is Yokohama Tires while the major sponsors are Ambi Pur and Sunrise Holiday Concepts. The official radio stations are Magic 89.9, 103.5 K-lite, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.1 City lite 88.3.

CITY MEDIA CHALLENGE

3rd round set Sept. 14

CITY Media Challenge is gearing up for another competitive driving spirit and spreading some driving sense into its participants' heads. Racing, however ironic it sounds, makes participants tamer, and wiser, drivers on city streets.

Slated on Sept. 14 is the third round of the City Media Challenge at the Liwasang Ipil-Ipil of the CCP Complex in Manila.

To strengthen camaraderie among competitors, the organizers held the annual sponsors' day Aug. 27 at the Café Provençal, SM Megamall.

Print, radio and TV personalities competing in this season's City Media Challenge graced the affair, joined by key officers from Honda Cars Philippines Inc., Caltex Philippines and Michelin Tires.

The media challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. and co-presented by Caltex Vortex and Havoline. Other sponsors are Michelin, through its distributor, Tiarra Commercial and Industrial Corp. for the tires; Aitech for the car stickers; and Nodalo's Trading for the car modifications.

The event is organized by ADBM Resources in partnership with Activity Asia Association and Roadwise Motoring School.

Mitsubishi Motors Cavite holds groundbreaking rites

PEOPLE in the Cavite area will have easier access to Mitsubishi vehicles, genuine parts and services soon.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. approved the establishment of a new dealer outlet to be put up at the more than 2,000-square-meter lot on the national highway in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The groundbreaking ceremonies recently marked the start of construction of the Mitsubishi Motors Cavite dealership scheduled to be operational on the second quarter of 2003.

Leading the groundbreaking ceremonies were Mitsubishi Motors Philippines executives Yoshizumi Kurata and Melchor Dizon. The dealership will be operated by Jabez Motors Corp.

The dealership will have a showroom featuring high ceiling and glass walls. It will also have a parts sales center and a full-service facility with at least 20 workbays and advanced service equipment. The service center is expected to handle all types of repair and maintenance jobs.

The completion of the Cavite dealer outlet will bring the total dealership outlet count of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines to 40, the largest network among all vehicle assemblers and distributors. This is in line with the dealer network expansion program of the MMPC. In February, a new outlet in Naga was inaugurated.

AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in the Motoring section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

What is 23 psi? How much air should I put?
—*Jeff Lim*

PSI is a unit of pressure that stands for pounds per square inch. So if your tire pressure gauge reads 23 psi, that means the air inside is exerting a pressure of 23 pounds per square inch against your tire wall.

Most drivers can improve fuel mileage by at least 2 percent just by keeping their tires at the recommended pressures. And take note: A tire can lose up to half of its air pressure and not appear to be flat! Under-inflation results in unnecessary tire stress, irregular wear, loss of control and, worst of all, accidents.

So how much air should you put in your tires? Most car manufacturers recommend pressures that are equal or close to the maximum pressure molded into the tire sidewall. But, it's best that you check out the carmaker's recommended tire pressures in your owner's manual, or look for a sticker or placard in the glove compartment or on the driver's door post.

Keep in mind that these are cold inflation pressures. This means that the pressure should be checked and adjusted when the tire is completely cold or after driving less than two kilometers. So if you have to drive somewhere to check your tire pressure, don't forget that the pressure in a tire rises as the vehicle is driven. So never let air out of a hot tire to reduce pressure to a cold-inflation recommendation.

Datumanong denial means nothing

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I QUOTED a newspaper report (not the INQUIRER) when I said Secretary Datumanong of the Department of Public Works and Highways has cleared Mabini Pablo and Eduardo Mir of the "repair vehicle scam." I have several newspapers at home as I need to know what the opposition is doing day in and day out. I do not only write a column, I also edit this paper's Sports Section.

Can I misquote a newspaper report? Or did the newspaper's reporter I had quoted misquote Datumanong?

You be the judge.

***

If Datumanong now says he did not clear Pablo and Mir, fine. If Datumaong says the stenographic notes mentioned in the report did not clear Pablo and Mir, fine. That's his call.

In the first place, I don't know Pablo and Mir, Datumanong's deputy secretaries. I was just interested in their cases because, as I said, my departed father (bless his soul) retired as a general foreman of the DPWH. If I had written something positive about Mir, it's because of my utterly regionalistic tendencies; we are both from Pangasinan—he from Mangaldan, me from Mangatarem. But then, that's beside the point. The merits of the case should always be at issue here—as happens always in the many other issues that I discuss here every now and then.

In the second place, that department remains close to my heart. Will always be. Part of my college tuition fee came from there out of the sweat of my father. I could not have earned a college degree without the DPWH.

Also, Full Tank always loves to keep a close watch of that department. I've listed the DPWH as a crucial player in the maintenance of good (?) roads in this beloved country of ours.

***

Actually, denial or no denial, it doesn't mean a thing.

Even if Datumanong clears Pablo and Mir, that'd be like seeing cops firing blanks at kidnappers. Amounts to nothing. He doesn't clear the two, OK lang. He'd be better off not doing anything.

Datumanong didn't suspend the two for 90 days, right?

President Macapagal-Arroyo did.

***

In an interview, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando told the Inquirer Magazine's Ruel S. de Vera: "I cannot run in 2004 if I intend to do well in this office. I have to put at stake my political career so I cannot leave this office without having done something good. I withhold any political plan at this point. I will miss out in the 2004 elections, that's what it all means."

You do something good and you will lose in an election?

C'mon, get real. How can one lose if he collects the city's garbage properly, clears sidewalks of illegal vendors and hawkers, and eradicates traffic jams in the metropolis? Fernando, the heroic former mayor of Marikina, can even become president of the republic if he can do all that.

But, on second thought, only politicians, *trapos* (traditional politicians) if you wish, can have such fractured view of things.

***

I raise a glass to Rommel Cortez's return to the motoring industry. Formerly of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., Rommel is now the customer relations officer of Isuzu. I'd say that Tonette Lee's loss is Myrna Gonzales' gain.

Welcome back, Rommel.

***

The Isuzu Challenge, a yearly thing designed to help rehabilitate ecological spots around the globe, will be staged in November. This time, it will trek through Mexico and Guatemala.

In its baptism of fire in 1998, the Isuzu Challenge took the Namibia-Botswana route. In 1999, it was the Vietnam-Laos terrain and on to Patagonia in 2000 and the Indian Himalayas last year.

The Isuzu vehicles to be used this year are the 3.0-liter turbo-diesel Trooper, 3.2-liter V6 Rodeo and the 3.1-liter turbodiesel pickup.

Mexico's culture will be accentuated in the first part of the journey. In Guatemala, the emphasis will be on the huge jungle of Peten County.

***

QUOTE ME. Roads and electricity are vital engines of a nation's economic prosperity. Remove one and the other becomes useless.

20 YEARS OF SUBARU RACING

Driving on the fast track is more than just speed

THE NEED for speed always comes to mind when we hear the word racing. But when it comes to world rally racing, it takes more than just speed to win. The quest for the much-coveted cup of rally racing is a true test of the driver, machine and the technology behind the machine.

Proud of its heritage in world rally racing, Subaru made its racing debut in 1980, when private teams started competing with Subaru vehicles. Since then, Subaru has been probing the superior performance, durability and all-wheel-drive (AWD) technology of its vehicles in some of the most grueling motorsports in the world.

Class wins in Kenya's Safari Rally in 1982 and 1983 pointed the way for many checkered flags to come. From the beginning, Subaru knew that its horizontally opposed engine layout and AWD would provide handling advantages over competitors particularly on the unpaved courses.

By the mid-1980s, Subaru cars have become regulars on the Safari, winning the coveted Group A category in 1985, and then taking first and second in Group A the following year with the first factory-backed RX turbo models.

In 1989, Subaru introduced its first-generation Legacy model, which offered more power than previous models. After teaming up with Prodrive, a British motorsports builder and racer, Subaru added one of the world's greatest rally drivers to its team—Finland's Markku Alen. Other automakers took notice of the growing seriousness of the Subaru effort. A fourth place in Finland's 1,000 lakes rally in 1990 proved the mettle—and metal—of the new Legacy.

SUBARU Impreza

Baptism of fire

In that same year, Subaru fully participated in the WRC's most grueling rally—the 38th Safari Rally. What makes the WRC the rally of all rallies is that cars based on commercially available models vie with each other under a variery of conditions around the world.

The WRC was the acid test of Subaru's capability to endure adverse climate and road changes in a range of events from the snow and ice of Sweden to the heat and dust of the Kenyan plains. From the glitz and glamour of Monte Carlo to the barren lunar landscape of Argentine pampas, the contrasts could hardly be greater. The blistering heat of Mediterranean asphalt is utterly at odds with the unique ball-bearing gravel of Western Australia.

Numerous accolades

Yet despite these odds, Subaru has won numerous accolades rally after rally. Its first win a World Championship race was in 1993 in the Rally of New Zealand. Subaru also won the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship in 1993, ending that season with 10 international rally victories and three British Championships, as well.

Subaru introduced the new Impreza model in 1993, and the Subaru/Prodrive team adopted the smaller, more maneuverable model. The Impreza quickly moved to the front of the pack, as double World Championship driver Carlos Sainz joined the team for the 1994 season. That year, the Subaru Impreza won the Acropolis, New Zealand and RAC rallies. New Zealander's "Possum" Burne, driving Subaru cars since 1982, won the 1994 Asia-Pacific Championship, including the Rally of Malaysia and the Hong Kong-Beijing Rally.

Subaru rose to the top in 1995, winning the World Rally Championship for the first time. In addition, Colin McRae, one of the Subaru rally team members, took the plum award in World Championship for drivers and Subaru took the top three places in the season's last two rallies, Catalunya and the RAC. Wins for the year included Monte Carlo, Portugal and New Zealand. Subaru had become the car and the team to beat.

Subaru won the World Rally Championship again in 1996 and 1997, and a couple more in succeeding rally championships, as proof of its great pedigree in the WRC. Subaru participates in the WRC because it wants to demonstrate the potential of the cars built on the concept of "Active Driving, Active Safety," and because it can collect and analyze valuable data from torturous driving conditions and feed the results back into its mass-produced vehicles.

Constant evolution

As the first Japanese manufacturer of automobiles to win the Manufacturer's Championship three years in succession, Subaru will continue to tackle the WRC so that its cars can constantly evolve. As General Motors Corp. and Fuji Heavy Industries, makers of Subaru cars, share their expertise in car manufacturing technology as a result of their recent partnership, Subaru cars will continue to be a permanent landscape in rally racing.

In the Philippines, the Subaru Forester—as the firsT Subaru car to be introduced in the country as a result of the alliance—shares the limelight of its rally car brothers with its perfect combination of all-wheel-drive and horizontally opposed engine. It is currently being distributed in all GM AutoWorld retailers in Makati, Quezon City, Pampanga, Cebu and at the Shaw Boulevard branch.

Prestige Cars Makati's Pre-Owned BMW's.
Looked after. Checked.
Ultimately reliable.

Why settle for less when you can get the BMW you really want! Prestige Makati has a wide range of choice pre-owned BMW's available for truly discerning motorists. Call **892-8127 to 29** and ask about these vehicles:

HONDA Trade-ins now accepted!

2002 318iA M Sport, black on black leather. Fast & mean, all for 2.05M.

2002 318iA, blue on black fabric, with warranty. The latest 3 Series for 1.7M.

2001 325iA Exec, red on black leather. Low miles, warranty included. 1.95M.

2001 316i, red on black fabric. Solid 3, with warranty. Excellent value. 1.28M.

2001 320d, silver on black fabric. A solid 3 Series w/ diesel economy. 1.85M.

2000 520iA, white on black fabric. An excellent, low mileage 5 Series. 1.85M.

1996 523iA, silver on black leather. 16" alloys. '01 look, very classy. 1.8M.

1995 316i, black on black fabric. Sporty with M accessories. Good value at 650T.

1995 316i, white on black fabric. A very nice E36 3 series for just 650T.

Prestige Cars Makati
Tel. Nos. 892-8127 to 29
The Ultimate Driving Machine

Auto dealers join Motorex

MAJOR automotive dealers, accessories makers and transport agencies are joining this year's initial staging of Motor Exhibition, or Motorex, the Philippines' first multimodal transport exhibit to be held on Sept. 7-15.

Motorex organizers said the exhibit promises to be an exciting event as more participants are expected to join the first of its kind transport show to be staged at the new H[illegible]son Plaza Annex in Manila.

Among the [illegible] transport manufac[illegible] dealers participating in Motorex are Hyundai Quezon Avenue Inc., Kia Commonwealth Inc., Nissan Commonwealth Inc., Norkis-Yamaha, Suzuki Auto Commonwealth Inc., Asia Pacific International Trading, Chrysler Quezon Avenue, Ford Edsa and Hyundai Quezon Avenue.

This early, accessories makers and distributors are also scrambling for slots in the exhibit including Carry Boy, Liftruk International, Ropa Innovative Marketing, European Decals, Artocad Creation Enterprises, Sika Phils. Inc., Trail Back Enterprises, Mixx Access Marketing, X-Wind Corp., Pheeramas Phils. Inc., Power-Chek Inc., Hannah The Ultimate Paint Shop, TNT Auto Club, Avadon International Corp., Tamsons Enterprises and Paint & Body Works.

Also participating in the event are Club Panoly Resort, Taal Yacht Club, ALS Marine, Twin Gear Phils. Corp./Cableflex Marine Corp., Manila Yacht Club, Airlink Aviation International School, Feati University, and Philippine State College of Aeronautics.

Agencies supporting Motorex include LTO-Stradcom, Department of Transportation and Communications, Land Transport Office, AA Philippines (formerly PMA), Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), Philippine Senate, Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force.

The first Motorex is sponsored by Centrex Corp., Auto Extreme, NU Rock 107, dzAR Angel Radyo 1026, Manila Bulletin, REV Magazine, Motorola Communications, and Guzzler Water Mart.

Between you and danger
from top
to bottom.
YOKOHAMA
RAINY DAY TREAT
PROMO

Get a FREE umbrella for every TWO YOKOHAMA tires you buy!
(Good for passenger car & light truck radial tires only.)

Know it. Ride it.
YOKOHAMA
Between You and Danger

Promo duration from Sept. 1 to October 31, 2002 Per DTI-NCR permit #1599 series of 2002.
www.yokohamatire-asia.com

Promo available from authorized distributors and other participating Yokohama Tire outlets.

LUZON
MOTECH AUTOMOTIVE
PRIMERO CAR SERVICE & TIRE SERVICE CENTER
VM DAVID CAR CENTER
CRG LUBE & TIRE CENTER
TETRA AUTO CORPORATION
WINRACE AUTO CARE CENTER
SUPER MILER SALES CORP.

METRO MANILA
ACHIEVERS SALES CORPORATION
ALPHA PERFORMANCE SALES CENTER
TIREMASTERS AUTO CARE CENTER INC.
EXPRESS DISTRIBUTORS, INC
SUPERWAY MARKETING
TYREBANCS BATTERIES AND ACCESSORIES INC.
CRG LUBE & TIRE CENTER
POWERWAY MARKETING
ASIAWAY MARKETING
FASTRACK
KAPITOLYO AUTO TIRE TECH
PROWHEELS INC
MOTECH AUTOMOTIVE
EXTRA MILE TIRE AND CAR CARE CENTER
CAPITAL INDUSTRIES INC
CUSTOM WHEELS
REMAL ENTERPRISES, INC
REMAL ENTERPRISES, INC
GLOBAL TYRE TRADE DISTRIBUTION
F.B. LADAO SALES INC

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Bus owner ensures passenger safety

By Tessa R. Salazar

BEING a good father means thinking beyond the safety of his own family. As he drives his way to work or back home, he thinks of pedestrian safety on the road as well.

Jose S. Vergara's motivation, more than driving his favorite Mercedes-Benz E-class car, is his family. He trusts that every father on the road would think just like he does—considerate of others' safety.

Vergara has been driving an MB car since the '60s. He owns a sedan and a wagon, but he makes it a point to replace his cars every three years. His own father and his sisters also had been MB owners here and in the United States.

Presence of mind

One time in the early '90s, while driving to Baguio City with his three kids sleeping comfortably at the back of his station wagon, a small boy suddenly crossed the street.

Vergara had to decide instantly. He avoided the child by maneuvering to the shoulder six inches lower than the pavement.

"I was able to sway back to the main road and my children were not even disturbed from their sleep," he says. Such is his presence of mind.

Vergara's responsibilities, however, cut a wider swath. For four years, he has been operating 65 brand-new Mercedes-Benz buses plying the Vito Cruz-Dasmariñas, Cavite route daily from 4 a.m. to 12 midnight. The route covers 50 km one way.

Each bus seats 60 persons. Vergara's sprawling 5,000-square-meter bus terminal in Silang, Cavite, also doubles as a parking lot for motorists who have chosen to ride his Benz buses rather than drive all the way to work. It would seem that Caviteños, not just the lower classes, are becoming more dependent on Vergara Bus Line also known as the JS Vergara Transport. It is one reason, says Vergara, that Gov. Ayong Maliksi has been supportive of his operations.

Every night, Vergara could see 20 or more cars queuing at the terminal, each vehicle fetching a passenger alighting from the buses.

Hands-on management style

Vergara's devotion to his family is rivaled only by his hands-on management style. He and his family live almost every day in an air-conditioned room in the terminal as he said he should personally manage the business..

Vergara manages 120 drivers and 120 conductors. Vergara prefers to hire drivers who have families of their own instead of young, single drivers whom he often regards as "impulsive."

Vergara is now working on another project that he hopes to launch next year: housing for his drivers and conductors.

To assure the quality and safety of the service, each driver and conductor is required to work 16 days a month only, or four days a week.

Though the employees work on commission basis, the average take home for each driver is P20,000 a month and P16,000 for conductors.

Stressing that buses' cargoes are not just things but living beings, Vergara conducts monthly safety consciousness seminars on his staff. Different agencies such as the Land Transportation Office are invited to these seminars.

JOSE Vergara with wife Millet and sons Mark and Jayvee, who are both kart racers. Nagi and Joan are golf players.

Anti-working class, anti-family

Not all is well in the bus operations business, however. As a bus operator and a former trucker and supplier of goods, Vergara is disturbed with the ban on public vehicles in the "color-coding scheme." It was a good thing, he says, that his bus operators' association requested for an exemption.

"Why would you ban working vehicles, carrying 60 commuters, or carrying fruits and other cargoes during rush hour from 9 to 4 p.m. and you allow a single student or a single salesman to bring his car and cause major traffic jams when they park on highways?" he asks.

He says that if only the government would help remove other "obstructions," like private vehicles parking on highways (especially those in front of schools), and make private motorists drop off their passengers just like how schools do it in the United States, then this could help decongest and improve traffic.

Secondhand buses

Other bus operators scramble to buy cheap (P800,000) secondhand buses from Japan and Korea to help them get quick returns on their investments. Some even buy buses that cost only P100,000 to P200,000 each.

He cites the economic crisis as the probable reason for other operators to bring in dilapidated vehicles. "But definitely," he adds, "we are bringing in scraps and sacrificing the safety of our passengers and the other motorists."

He says that 15-year-old buses, particularly those that were converted from right-hand to left-hand drives, are no longer safe no matter the upkeep that was accorded them.

Brand-new fleet

Unlike other bus operators, Vergara tightens his belt to be able to provide expensive (P4 million) buses for his passengers.

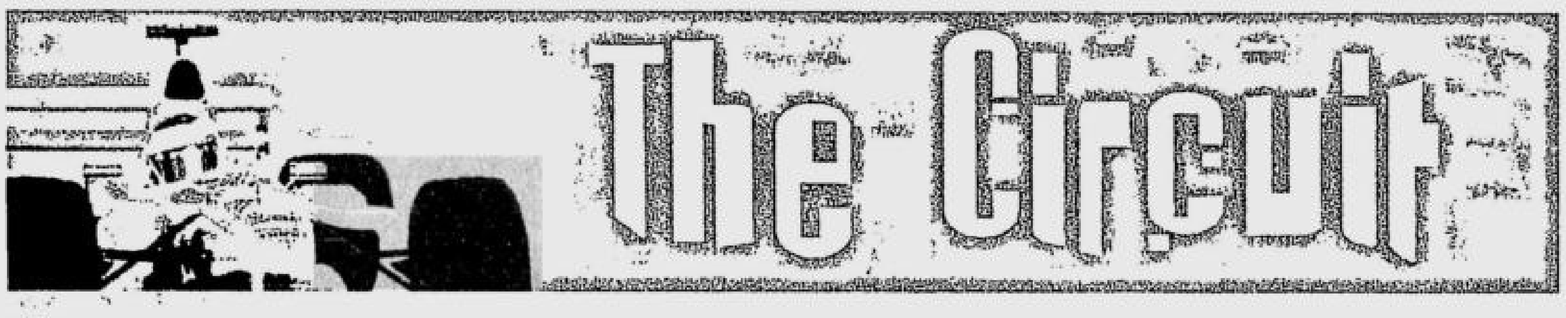
"My fleet is brand-new. I forced myself to buy brand-new ones because of my desire to make the vehicles safe for my passengers."

The MB buses have their chassis and engines made in Brazil but engineered and manufactured by German engineers. The bus body is built locally, with Almazora as the dominant builder. There are about 20 other local builders in the country.

Says Vergara: "I am lucky to start on the right foot and I intend to continue my business this way. All you have in your inventory of spare parts is one size and that's it." He is referring to his sole dealer, Commercial Motors Corp.

Vergara adds that doing business with just one spare parts dealer lessens the temptation of corruption from purchasers. Then, the hassle of hopping from one spare parts dealer to another is eliminated. A bus operator saves a lot of time, and headaches, just by having one supplier.

Mercedes-Benz has always been associated with the rich and the elite. Vergara is making the star logo get closer to the hearts of the masses. Who doesn't want to be driven to their destinations every day in a "Chedeng," anyway?



SHELL AND FERRARI WIN 100th RACE TOGETHER

Shell and Ferrari made history yesterday by becoming the first fuel and lubricant supplier to record 100 wins with one team. Michael Schumacher's win at Spa-Francorchamps last September 1, 2002 is the latest in a long line of Shell-powered Ferrari wins, begun by José Froilán González at Silverstone in 1951.

But aside from Michael Schumacher and José Froilán González, Ferrari drivers that have won with Shell fuels and oils in their car include Alberto Ascari, Mike Hawthorn, Juan Manuel Fangio, John Surtees and of course Rubens Barrichello. For Shell, the 100th victory is a ringing endorsement of the hard work the company has done over the past fifty-one years. "When we re-joined Ferrari in 1996, we knew that we had a big job to do," explained Shell's Global Motorsport Business Manager, David Barnes, " but from the outset, we made terrific progress as a team. Today we are an integral part of Ferrari. We analyse fuels and lubricants here at the track, we research the next developments in fuel and lubricants at our base in Chester (UK) and we work with the Ferrari design or test team at Ferrari's factory in Maranello (Italy). For example, the design of next year's Ferrari Formula One car is well underway, and Shell is already consulting the Ferrari design team, on how best to optimize the fuel and lubricants for the new machine."

Ferrari's Team Principle, Jean Todt, refers to the Shell engineers as "the best fuel development team in the pit lane." As well as helping Ferrari to clean up on the track, Shell is also helping to clean up the environment. By working closely with Ferrari, Shell is able to lead the fuel industry in producing fuels that burn more efficiently and are thus more environmentally friendly, drastically reducing world-wide emissions. In fact, thanks to the relationship with Ferrari, the fuels that Shell sell worldwide reduce emissions by such an extent that it is like creating a rainforest 100 times the size of Manhattan every year.

Ferrari holds its technical partnerships very close to its heart. "There are huge benefits and gains you make by having a totally open relationship with a company like Shell," explains Ferrari's Technical Director Ross Brawn. "They have total access to our engine, total access to our transmission, total access to any part of the car they are involved in. They have total access to our designs, they work with our designers and vice versa, our people work with Shell to find the best solutions. There's three or four partners we have where we have this sort of relationship and in the long term, it is the only one I believe we should operate." The intimacy of the relationship is endorsed by none other than Luca di Montezemolo, Chairman and Managing Director of Ferrari, "Shell is part of our life. Ferrari began racing with Shell and is a fundamental technical partner to us. The battle to develop lubricants is key over the next few years and we are very proud to be in such a fortunate position with Shell." Founder of Ferrari, Enzo Ferrari also enjoyed the full support of the technical partner: "Shell has always acknowledged the paramount importance of racing experience and this has enabled it to achieve remarkable results." His views are echoed by his first driver ever to win a round of the Formula One World Championship, José Froilán González who fittingly should have the last word: " When we won at Silverstone in 1951, it was with Shell fuel. Now Ferrari is still winning over fifty years later, that must mean that their fuel is still the best."

2002 FORMULA ONE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(After 14 Grand Prix Races)

DRIVER STANDINGS	
M. SCHUMACHER	122
BARRICHELLO	51
MONTOYA	44
R. SCHUMACHER	42
COULTHARD	37
RAIKKONEN	20

TEAM STANDINGS	
FERRARI	173
WILLIAMS	86
McLAREN	57
RENAULT	15
SAUBER	11
JORDAN	7

HELIX
Superior engine protection proven in the extreme.

The most dangerous cars on the road

ON THE ROAD
Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

NOT surprisingly, researchers at the University of Michigan and the Berkeley National Laboratory discovered last month that sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are just about the most dangerous cars on the road.

The analysis, which compared the risk of death in traffic accidents based on vehicle types and models sold between 1995 and 1999 with data on traffic deaths published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, was presented to legislators in Washington recently.

What makes SUVs dangerous, according to a Reuters report on the study that came out on the just-auto news website, is their size, the impact they have on smaller vehicles in a crash and the mistaken belief of their owners/drivers that their hulking size makes them safer to drive than smaller cars.

Contrary to this misconception, SUVs on the average are as risky as the average midsize or big car and no safer than many of the most popular compact and subcompact models, the Berkeley lab report indicated. In fact, considering the combined risks to all drivers on the road, most cars are safer than the average SUV, Reuters reported.

Age and sex

Unlike sports cars, which were found to be very dangerous to their drivers since the latter tend to be young and aggressive and unlike minivans, which are usually driven with special care because they are often used to transport children, in the SUV's case the age and sex of the driver are not contributory risk factors, the analysis said.

This led the researchers to conclude that the higher risk in SUVs relative to cars is due to the tendency of SUVs to roll over, since their size and weight make them harder to control. The danger to unbelted drivers of rollover crashes adds to the SUV's risk.

The study concluded that design, rather than size, appeared to be the critical safety factor for motor vehicles, given a wide range in risks between different subcompact and compact cars.

Responding to the Berkeley lab study, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers released to the press soundbites and video supporting SUVs together with the results of a new RL Polk study claiming to find that SUVs are becoming more popular because of their safety during hazardous weather conditions and their overall versatility.

Best-selling cars

The Alliance is a trade association of 13 car and light truck manufacturers that account for more than 90 percent of vehicle sales in the United States. Its members include the BMW Group, DaimlerChrysler, Fiat, Ford, General Motors, Isuzu, Mazda, Mitsubishi Motors, Nissan, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo.

The Alliance-sponsored study claimed that Americans last year bought almost 600,000 more SUVs, minivans, vans and pickups than passenger cars and that SUVs are some of the best-selling cars in America.

The RL Polk study backed up these claims with statistics: more than 79 percent of SUV owners reported using their SUVs in harsh weather when vehicle control may be difficult; 24 percent said they "feel very safe" in an SUV; over 25 percent of SUV owners feel that the SUV is "ideal for their active lifestyle"; 47 percent of female SUV owners reported using their SUV sometimes or frequently to drop kids off at school or daycare centers; over 36 percent of female SUV owners reported using their SUV to transport one child in a car seat.

In other words, how can the SUV be the most dangerous car on the road when it is becoming a "mom mobile"? As the CEO of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers pointed out, "In the '70s and '80s, it was the station wagon, in the 90s it was the minivan, nowadays SUVs have become America's family vehicle." (Incidentally, the CEO of the Alliance is a woman.)

I can just see those SUV-driving, macho jocks blanch. What, the SUV is now a family vehicle or mom mobile? Time to switch to pickups, guys!

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.

* * *

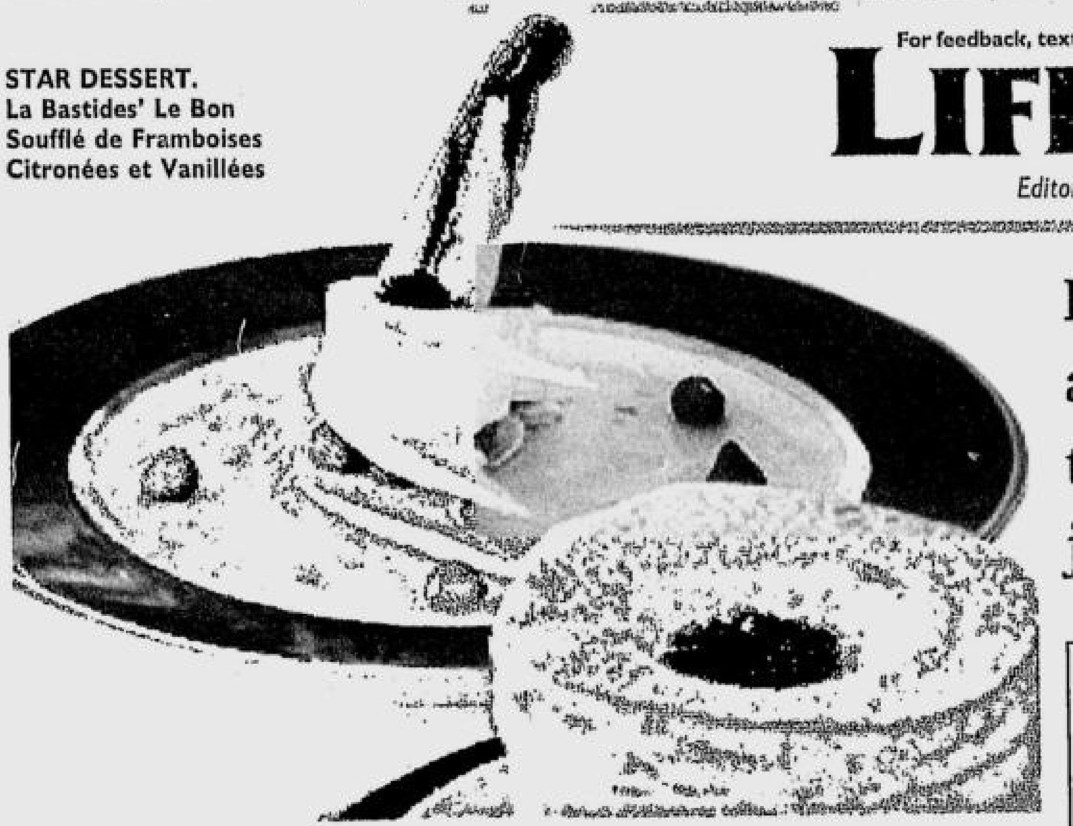
E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



STAR DESSERT. La Bastides' Le Bon Soufflé de Framboises Citronées et Vanillées

Frolicsome in France

Baron Philippe de Rothschild sponsors a week of fine dining, wining and touring, and from Paris to the Riviera joie de vivre is a French vintage

By Tita Trillo
Contributor

PARIS was exhilarating with its perfect springtime weather as opposed to the sweltering heat of Manila. It was a respite after the 12-hour straight Air France flight.

Our memories of this fabulous city were simple—walking in the cafés where we enjoyed freshly baked croissants, baguettes and brioche, and steaming cups of espresso; strolling in the gardens amid the magnificent fountains in Trocadero or simply watching throngs of tourists and homesick *kababayan* eager to know what was happening in our country.

We walked the backstreets of Paris and mixed with the locals to enjoy the typical *joie de vivre* of a Parisien. Julien, full of historical tales and home to many locals, is my favorite French brasserie. Here the people ate and drank to their hearts' content and were not bothered by their seatmates. The décor was purely *belle epoque*, characterized by art nouveau. The food was extraordinarily delicious. My main course was Foie Gras de Canard grillé en Remoulade paired with Mouton Cadet Rouge by Baron Philippe de Rothschild. The decadent dessert, *profiteroles* oozing with *chocolat*, was punctuated by a shot of Sauternes.

I can't forget Au Vieux Paris, a charming 100-year-old restaurant. The interior, depicting the era of Louis XIII from furniture to cutlery to glassware, was reminiscent of the opulence of Old Paris. The chef patron and her husband were very welcoming, and gave us the best *charcuteries* in the house along with a Provençal rose wine and newly baked tartatine. The charming couple made us feel at home and let us stay until late in the afternoon.

French Riviera

I feel like I'm floating in the air whenever I think of Cannes. The luncheon at the Restaurant des Palmes on the beach was impressive, yet friendly. The food was simply delectable—Mouton Cadet Blanc, Rouge and Rose were poured endlessly. This is the good life, I recall thinking, but it was just the beginning of more surprises.

The first night was the black-tie premiere showing of "Le Fils" by Luc and Jean Pierre Dardenne, who eventually won Best Actor.

We were dressed to the nines as we

FROLICSOME/ p.C2

This week at SM Supermalls
STAR RECORDS presents
Stagecrew
MALL TOUR
SEPT. 7 • 4pm
ACTIVITY CENTER, LGF
SM City Bacoor

Weigh Less Center
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
Returning Beauty

- WEIGHT LOSS
- BOTOX
- WEIGHT GAIN
- DERMASTAR
  - Skin Whitening,
  - Rosy Peel,
  - Acne Peel
  - Anti-Ageing
- PLASTIC & COSMETIC SURGERY
- DENTAL HAVEN
  - Braces
  - Bleaching
  - Laminate

Free use of day spa & massage when you enrol*

Please call for more details*
373•0766 / 374•2437 / 371•8886
371•8887 / 373•3365 / 373•3366

WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-G Roces Ave., Q.C.
WEIGH LESS CENTER BINONDO, 498 San Fernando St., Binondo Tel. 244-5378
WEIGH LESS CENTER GREENHILLS, 3rd Flr. Shoppesville Plus
CLINICA MANILA, 3F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
WEIGH LESS PAMPANGA, The Flower Garden, Mc Arthur Highway, San Agustin City of San Fernando Pampanga
DAVAO BRANCH, Chardin Davao, Florentine Bldg., A. Bonifacio St., Davao City, 8000
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS

SPECIALIZED CULINARY CERTIFICATE TRAINING COURSES

MASTERY OF ASIAN CUISINE SERIES

Over 100 recipes of the most popular and exotic cuisine from the Asian region. Ten sets of varied menus (comprising of soups, salads, main dishes and desserts) unique to the Asian culture will be the principal focus of this training program. Culinary techniques necessary to produce restaurant and catering quality of Asian food

COURSE FEE : P50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Pesos, inclusive of ingredients)
SCHEDULE: Sept. 13, Sept. 18, Sept. 23, Sept. 27 Oct. 2, Oct. 7, Oct 11, Oct. 14

MACROBIOTIC / HOLISTIC HEALING CUISINE SERIES

(designed most especially for cancer, diabetic, kidney and heart patients)

A course that will teach the basic principles of macrobiotics and as such, will be useful in the effort towards the restoration of the human body's incongruities to its perfect and natural balance through certified and effective healthy diets.

COURSE FEE : P30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Pesos, inclusive of ingredients)
SCHEDULE: Sept. 16, Sept. 20, Sept. 25, Sept 30, Oct. 4, Oct 9

- Lunch will be served free of charge during each session.
- A certificate of completion will be handed out, certifying successful participation therein
- Option for basic and/or advanced restaurant training

For clarifications, inquiries or additional details, please contact telephone numbers 6335162 / 9289296 / 9273008 / 6474744 and look for Cora and Cynthia. Enroll now, as students for each certificate-course will be limited to only 15 to ensure quality and personalized training.

YOU DONT HAVE TO SPEND MUCH TO AVAIL OF HIGH-QUALITY SKIN & SLIMMING TREATMENTS!

Programs available:
- FACIAL PROGRAM
- LEG SCARS PROGRAM
- SKIN PIGMENTATION PROGRAM
- ACNE & OILY SKIN PROGRAM
- WRINKLE & DRY SKIN PROGRAM
- BODY PEEL / BLEACH PROGRAM
- UNDERARM or GROIN PEEL / BLEACH PROG.
- FACIAL PEEL / BLEACH PROGRAM
- HEAD TO TOE WART REMOVAL PROG.
- WHITE SCAR PROGRAM
- SLIMMING PROGRAM

Derma Live Hydrogel
Natural facelift, deep wrinkles & facial scar treatment (without the ugly stage)

OTHER SERVICES
•Breastlift •Nose Lift •Deep Set Eye •Eyebag Removal Liposuction • Vaginoplasty • etc.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
MICRODERMABRASION
The Fastest & Painless way to Beautiful Skin

50% OFF
LIMITED OFFER ONLY
CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED
ALL TREATMENTS DONE BY HIGHLY SKILLED DOCTORS

TAKE HOME BODY BLEACH
MAIL ORDER ACCEPTED

FREE CONSULTATION

DERM STRESS CLINIC
FOR MEN & WOMEN

MAIN BRANCH QUEZON CITY
UNIT 4 VALENCIA HILLS COND.
DONA RODRIGUEZ ST QC
721-9227/28 723-5265

• COMMONWEALTH
UNIT 104 G/F JOCFER BLDG., COMMONWEALTH AVE., Q.C.
952-2434

• PARAÑAQUE
DOÑA SOLIDAD ST., BETTER LIVING, BET MAGOOS PIZZA & LITTLE CEASARS
822-7438/723-5265

• ALABANG
UNIT 303 PAGE I BLDG., ACACIA AVE ALABANG
771-0116

• BINONDO
RM M-1 1ST BINONDO CENTER
522 JUAN LUNA ST. BINONDO MLA.
244-2524/2656

• MAKATI
G/F 111 PASEO DE ROXAS BLDG. PASEO DE ROXAS ST. COR LEGASPI ST LEGASPI VILLAGE
893-6786/3347

• NAVOTAS
2nd Flr. Cor. M. Naval & H. Ignacio St., Navotas Metro Manila
281-0769

• ANTIPOLO
MULTI CASTLE BLDG. MARCOS H-WAY ANTIPOLO RIZAL
6457924/5877

• QUEZON CITY
RETIRO ST. (NS AMORANTO) ST. Q.C.
412-8915

NAGA CITY
2ND LEVEL TRADERS SQUARE BLDG., P BURGOS ST. NAGA CITY
(054) 4720190

SOON TO OPEN PAMPANGA, BULACAN & DAGUPAN
NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE CALL 723-52-65

福陸月餅
FOK SENG MOON CAKE

ATTENTION!!!
VOLUME BUYERS
&
PROVINCIAL DEALERS
AVAIL OF GENEROUS DISCOUNTS

FOK SENG HONGKONG CUISINES
103 Sct. Alcaraz St., Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 732-3668/413-3311

#833 Banawe St., Cor. del Monte Ave., Quezon City
410-8690/740-8787/TELEFAX : 412-1252

CAUSEWAY Seafood Restaurant
8th Acropolis Centre,
53 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
638-9374/638-9375

Get your treat right here at the Street!
GIMME 5
4+1 TREAT
STREET LIFE
Nestea

Have your lunch at the Street four times and get a lunch treat on your fifth visit for free!
FREE unlimited Nestea Iced Tea with every lunch special!

Choose from select meals from any of our food outlets:
BG's Barbecue Grill • Little Italy • Mongkok • Fat Alley • Seiji

Promo good from 12nn-2pm daily, Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 2002.
See flyers for details.

3RD LEVEL, GLORIETTA 3,
AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY
817-8996 • FAX 817-8979

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-463, Series of 2002.

Shop with MasterCard and watch a play without having to pay!
Get free stage play tickets with MasterCard Priceless Delights at the Shangri-La Plaza.
POWER PLANT AT ROCKWELL
Shangri-La Plaza
MasterCard
MasterCard Electronic

Use your MasterCard when you shop at the Power Plant and the Shangri-La Plaza and enjoy three wonderful delights! One: a minimum transaction worth P2,000 entitles you to either free movie, bowling or stage play tickets for two. Two: a minimum purchase worth P1,000 allows you to play a game at our MasterCard booth located in these malls for instant gift items. And three: get the chance to win cash credits worth P20,000 in our monthly raffle draw. So use your MasterCard now and be delighted!

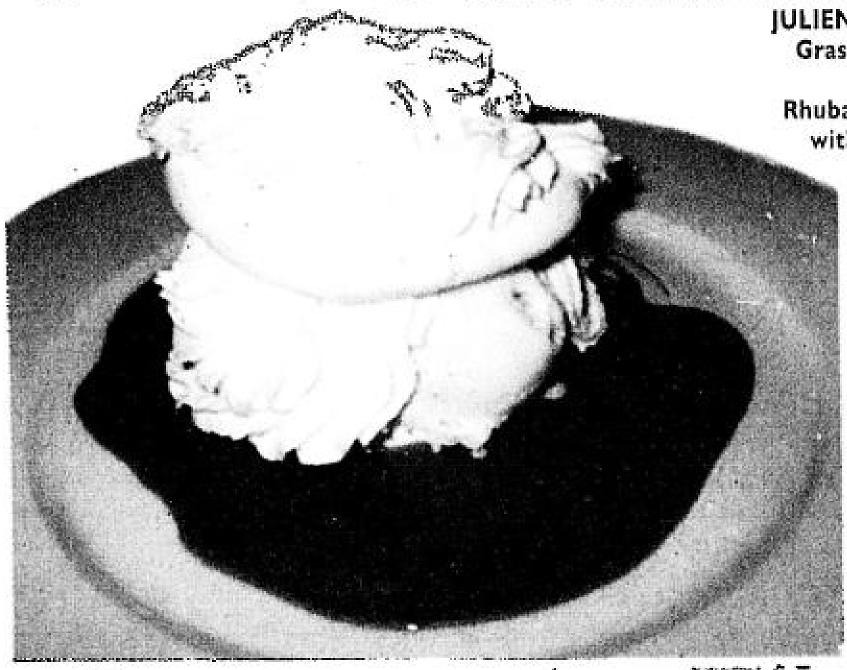
Promo Period is from July 1 to September 30, 2002.
Visit us at the MasterCard Activity Booth. See posters and flyers or visit www.mastercard.com.ph for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2500, Series of 2002

Frolicsome in France

AL fresco dining at La Bastide Saint Antoine in Grasse

JULIEN'S famous Foie Gras de Canard à la Confiture de Rhubarbe (duck liver with rhubarb jelly)



JULIEN'S ice cream with meringue and chocolate sauce

THE CHEF and her husband at Au Vieux Paris

BARONNE Philippe de Rothschild is presented by the author with a Katrina Goulbourn *piña* silk scarf.

From page C1

walked on the red carpet, posed and smiled for the paparazzi, amid the glitz and the glamour of famous actors, actresses and veteran directors. I still remember Faye Dunaway in her slick white pantsuit, smiling from ear to ear, her braces gleaming; Geraldine Chaplin draped in her elegant gown, Roman Polanski with his towering model-girlfriend, and many more celebrities whose names I couldn't figure out.

Dinner was late after the show at the Baron Philippe de Rothschild terrace. From the veranda, you could see the magnificent skyline of Cannes highlighted by mega-lights crisscrossing the whole stretch of the beach.

We were honored with a very intimate sit-down dinner along with other agents from all over the world. Served were lavish wines from Baron Philippe de Rothschild and luscious food prepared by a great chef. Xavier de Eizaguirre, the wine company's managing director, regaled us with his typical French humor.

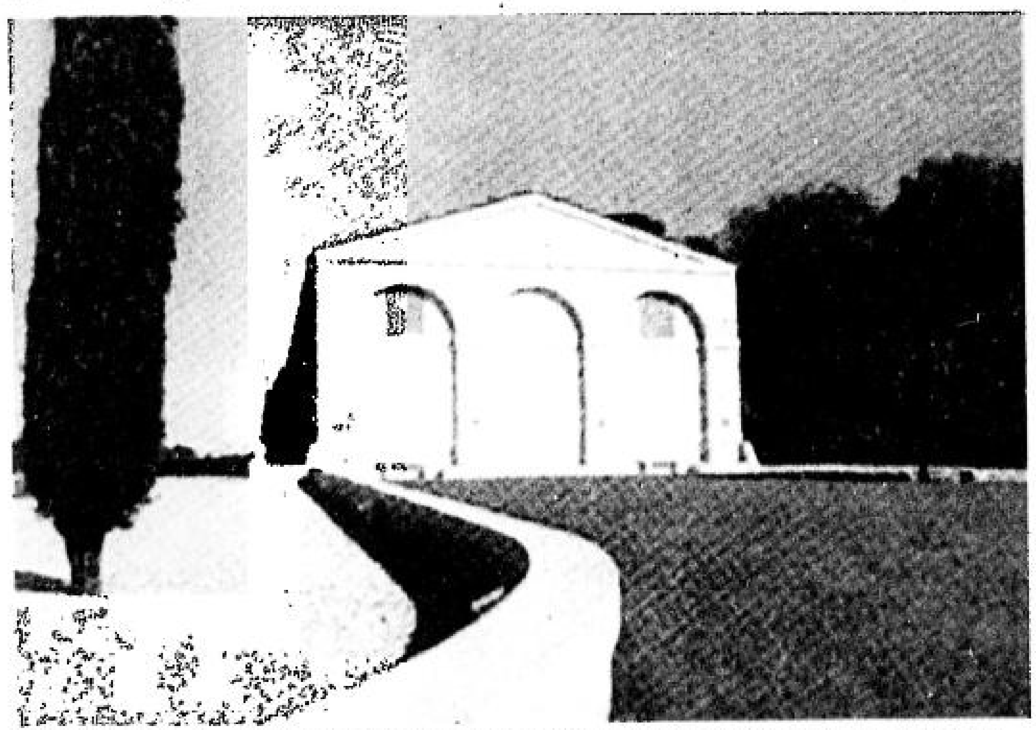
Next day

A stretch Mercedes limousine picked us up to go to Fragonard (a perfume factory in Grasse). The fragrance of lavender, roses, magnolia and other flowers permeated the air. The traditional pot-still method of distilling flowers until they liquefy is still being followed to this day. As usual, we ended up buying *pasalubong* for everyone.

Then we headed for lunch at the La Bastide Saint Antoine, a three-star Michelin noted for the fragrances and the cuisine of Provençe. It was a total experience to lunch al fresco overlooking the horizon of Grasse.

FRUITS de Mers, selection of seafood with an Asian twist at Bordeaux

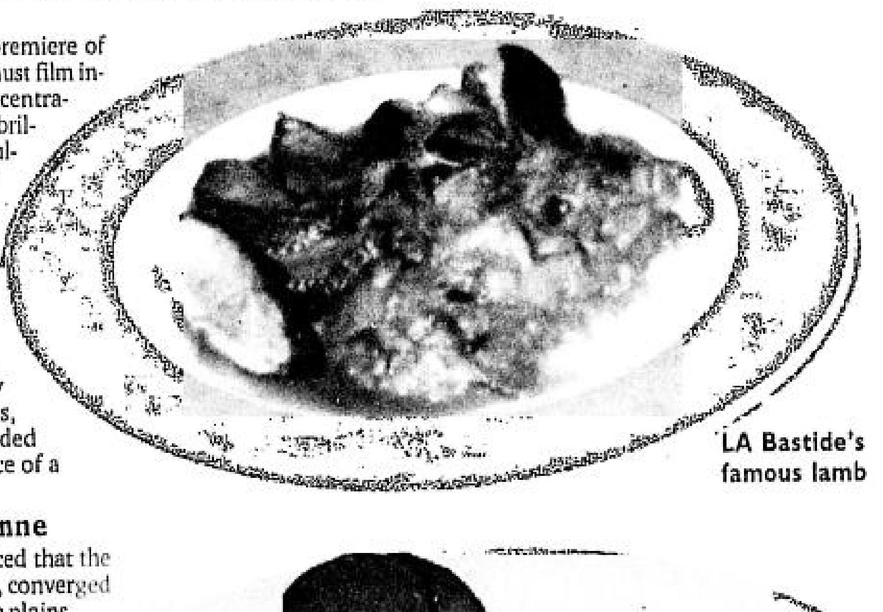
ZHARINE Carbonnel, Joan Ignacio, Elisa Rocha, Mickey Fenix, Boris Simon, Tita Trillo and Leah Caringal



CHATEAU Mouton Rothschild Premier Grand Cru Classé, Pauillac, Bordeaux, France

In the evening, we saw the official premiere of Polanski's "The Pianist," a stirring holocaust film inspired by his mother who died in a concentration camp. The story revolved around a brilliant Polish pianist (portrayed by the soulful Adrian Brody), who escaped the Warsaw ghetto and survived with the help of a German officer. This movie eventually won Best Picture and a 30-minute standing ovation from the critical audience.

After the movie, we had a late dinner at Fouquet, a famous restaurant in Cannes. Beside our table were Jeremy Irons and a group of fashion moguls, headed by Jean Paùl Gaultier. We ended our stay in Cannes with the exuberance of a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



LA Bastide's famous lamb

Bordeaux and the Baronne

As we approached Bordeaux, I noticed that the two rivers, the Garonne and Dordogne, converged into the Gironde estuary separating the plains of the Medoc from the hillside of Bourg and Blaye. Notable scenes were the vast vineyards on the flat land and chateaux all over.

After a quick lunch, we didn't have time to change to meet with the mistress of Chateau Mouton, Baronne Philippe de Rothschild. All anxiety and apprehension vanished as she welcomed us in her salon very casually, introducing her boyfriend Jean Pierre and their other friends. Her charming and unaffected ways put everyone at ease.

A stage actress for 27 years before she took over Baron Philippe de Rothschild from her father, she propelled this wine business to a great success. Living up to her father's legacy, she owns Chateau Mouton, Chateau d' Armailhac, Chateau Clerc Millon, and vineyards in Lanquedoc not to mention the success with Concha y Toro in Chile producing Almaviva and Robert Mondavi in Napa Valley with Opus One.

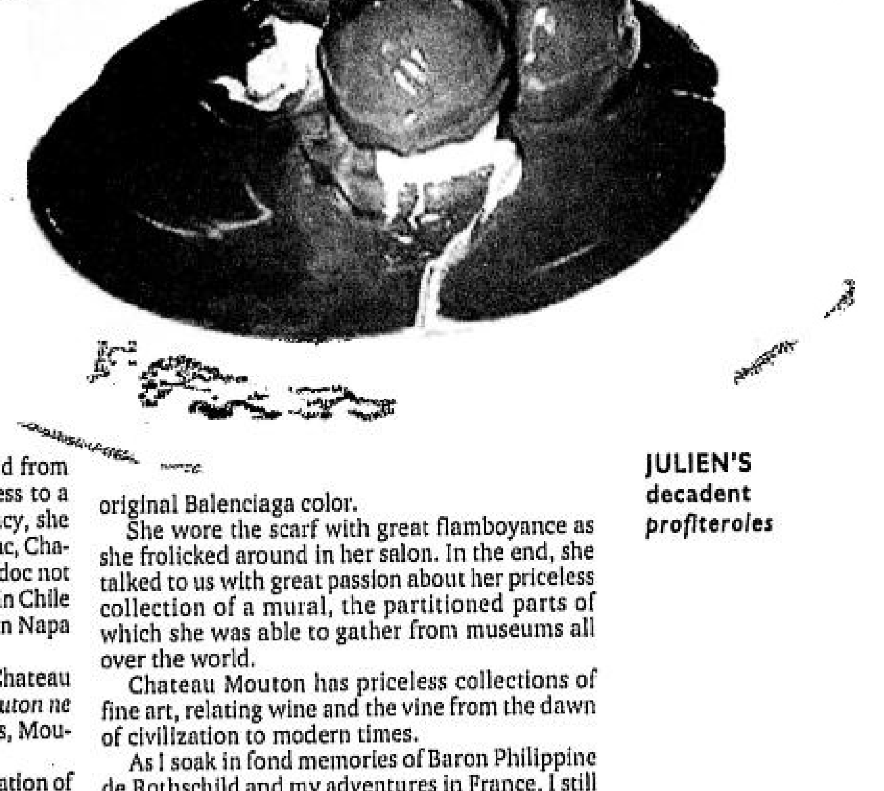
She continued with pride the motto of Chateau Mouton, "*Premier je suds, second je fus, Mouton ne change*," meaning "First I am, second I was, Mouton does not change").

We ended our meeting with the presentation of a Katrina Goulbourn *piña* silk scarf, which she loved so much. As a typical French Madame, she pronounced that the shocking pink scarf was an original Balenciaga color.

She wore the scarf with great flamboyance as she frolicked around in her salon. In the end, she talked to us with great passion about her priceless collection of a mural, the partitioned parts of which she was able to gather from museums all over the world.

Chateau Mouton has priceless collections of fine art, relating wine and the vine from the dawn of civilization to modern times.

As I soak in fond memories of Baron Philippine de Rothschild and my adventures in France, I still think of it as a dream. Sipping my Mouton Cadet Rouge slowly, I regale my husband with my experiences.



JULIEN'S decadent *profiteroles*

The truth about Coke Light

WE were beginning to wonder why every time we ordered Diet Coke, we were told that there was none available. Until we met the Coca-Cola guys recently, we didn't know that the diet brand had been phased out in the local market about two months ago, and has since then been replaced by Coca-Cola Light. As we've observed, not too many consumers, even vendors and eatery servers know that. The latter just say, *Naul usan na.*" Now, every time we hear folks asking for Diet Coke, we tell them it's been replaced by Coca-Cola Light.

For cola drinkers who might be interested to know why the diet brand had been replaced, here are enlightening answers to the most-asked questions about the new Coke. We thank Dr. Elias Escueta, director for scientific regulatory affairs and environment of the Coca-Cola Export, for the following information:

Why was Diet Coke replaced with Coke Light?

The latter is the answer to the constantly evolving taste of consumers, from the "keeping fit" trend of the '80s to the "healthy and balanced lifestyle" of the present. While Light has a distinguishing bolder flavor representing today's "healthy and balanced" trend, the taste is not compromised.

Why is Light sweeter than Diet?

There are several factors affecting the perceived sweetness of any carbonated beverage—not just Coke for that matter—mainly the time and the temperature during consumption. For example, if you drink Light after dessert, it will not be as sweet as when you take it with your lunch. I can assure you that the sweetener of Coke Light is exactly the same as that of Diet Coke.

How many calories does Light have?

Less than one calorie for an eight-ounce serving.

Is there sugar content in Light?

There is no sugar in Coke Light. We use a blend of artificial sweeteners, aspartame and acesulfame-K (K stands for potassium). Aspartame is a high-intensity sweetener that is a healthy alternative to sugar, without the calorie.

Are aspartame and acesulfame-K safe for people with diabetes?

An American Dietetic Association report stated that low calorie sweeteners are "safe and that they are widely advocated and used by persons with diabetes." For specific recommendations, however, you should check with your doctor or dietician.

Dr. Escueta added that a regular eight-ounce Coke in can contains 93 calories.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

By the way, we were told that the shelf life of Diet and Light Coke is within three months, so check the bottom of the can for the information that suggests "best-consumed date."

Worried about airport security check

Mary Grace Marqueses was bound for the US when she wrote us a letter asking about the tighter security inspection at the airport. Here's a tip from PDI Lifestyle's frequent flyer Linda Bolido:

"It is best to pack only the essentials. Say no to friends and relatives who ask you to carry items to their relations in the US. This is not the time to accommodate "*pakidala*" as it may get you into trouble. Aside from quarantine restrictions, there are strict customs surveillances on food, cigars, cigarettes, etc. Don't allow any room for suspicion. For example, give straightforward replies to questions. Be prepared, as there is no telling what kind of questions will be asked. Wear comfortable clothes as well, so you don't feel uneasy. Avoid wearing cumbersome shoes, such as boots and thick-heeled footwear.

There is no need to worry about security checks if you have nothing to hide. In fact, that should boost your confidence and make you look at ease."

Personal identity is not a giveaway

Standard Charter Bank customer Leojun Gonzales has every reason to complain. Someone in the bank gave out private information on his credit card account to another customer. He wrote:

"A lady called me up one night requesting for an authorization letter with my signature so she can supposedly recover the payment she mistakenly made to my credit card. According to her, she got my name, card number and telephone number from someone in the bank. Fearing a scam, I instructed her to tell the bank to contact me instead. I know that banks don't readily give away personal information of their customers. Needless to say, I called up the bank's phone hotline and inquired if they allowed such practice. The following Monday, Aug. 5, an employee called me up requesting for an authorization letter. She admitted that she was the one who disclosed my personal information to another customer. I was furious. How come every time we ask something through their phone help desk, we are bombarded with so many questions to establish our own identity? And this lady in the bank just gave away my personal identity readily to somebody who just asked for it.

"I faxed a letter of complaint to the bank last Aug. 9 and as of Aug. 28, I haven't heard from them, except from the employee who is still asking me for my duly signed authorization letter."

Comment to medical malpractice

From Robert A. Palileo, MD, of Makati City (Aug. 29 issue—"Medical malpractices and other consumers' gripes"):

"I am not a lawyer, but while your contentions to (doctors') failure to relay information regarding patient's condition may fall under malpractice, the other gripes you had mentioned about exorbitant charges, and of doctors accepting more patients than they could handle, do not constitute malpractices. While both are certainly valid and legitimate complaints, I do not think they had anything to do with professional negligence on the part of the doctor.

"With regard to the two incidents you wrote about, I think there are a lot of medical questions that need to be answered before one can say that the doctors involved were remiss in their duties… In the interest of fair play, the respective versions of these doctors should have been obtained and published together with the accounts of the complainants."

(We did our best to call up the concerned parties, but they were unavailable.)

E-mail the columnist at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph or lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

---

Relish Italian-American dishes in single or sharing portions

DINING OUT

EXPERIENCE A'more di Merrier shared-style dining with Italianni's appetizers like Spinach and Artichoke Formaggio, Stuffed Mushrooms and Fried Calamari; entrées of Roasted Chicken Italianni's and Eggplant Parmagiana; and pastas like the Angel Hair Meditteraneo and Fettuccine Carbonara. Its newest dish, Seafood with Vegetable and Rice, is now available in all Italianni's branches. Visit Italianni's at the 2/L of Glorietta 4, Makati City (tel. 757-1323/24) and Corte de las Palmas of Alabang-Town Center (tels. 772-3320 and 772-3385).

BURGOO offers a family treat. For every half-slab order of Baby Back Ribs, one automatically gets a bowl of Burgoo Stew, another specialty of Burgoo. Burgoo branches are at Tomas Morato Extension, QC; Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center in Makati; and The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815/16 or 687-5254.

BURGOO'S Grilled Baby Back Ribs

ZUCCHINI'S Grill and Vinotek's cuisine is contemporary European, distinctly Italian and presented with Mediterranean elegance and sophistication. On Tuesday and Saturday evenings, customers are pampered with live flute and guitar music. Located at 66 Timog Avenue, QC, it is open daily from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Call 925-0789 or 415-5533.

MAKATI Shang's Lobster Ceviche with a trio of Smoked Salmon in Calamansi Vinaigrette

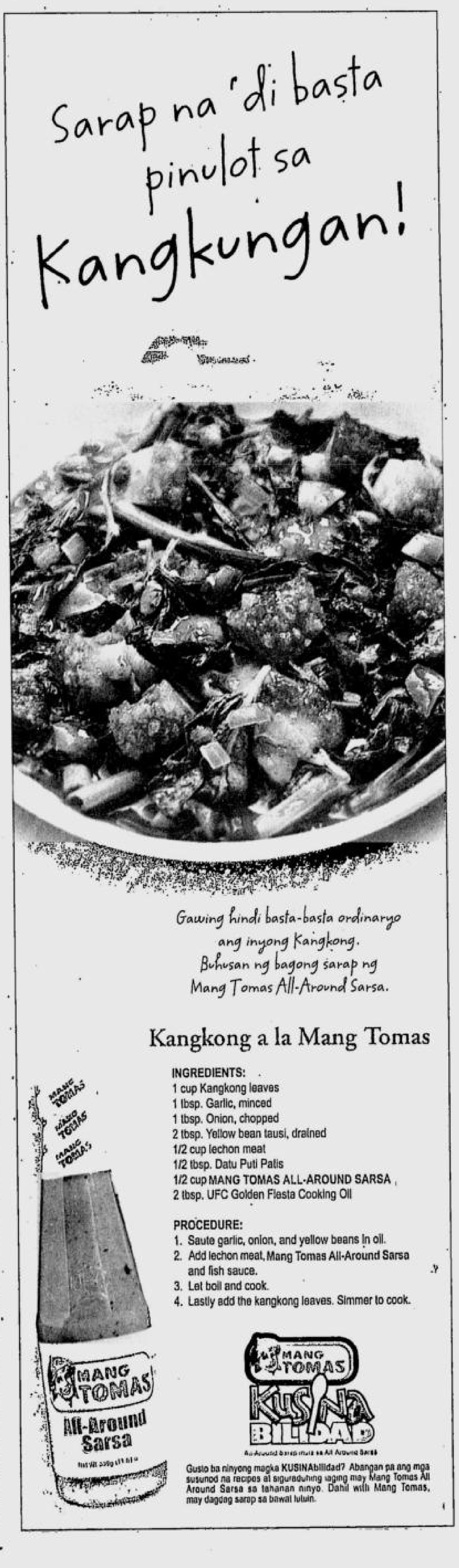
MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace will showcase dishes from the province of Hangzhao, China, on Sept. 9-23. Included in this a la carte offering are Beggar's Chicken, Noodles with Shrimp and Eel, Sweet and Sour South West Lake Carp, Honey Ham, Thick Fish Soup, Dong Po Pork; Shelled Fresh Shrimps with Long Jing Tea Leaves, and Bamboo Shoots Stewed in Peanut Oil. Available for lunch and dinner. Cheval Blanc, on the other hand, features an all-new a la carte menu for lunch and dinner. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888.

DUSIT Hotel's Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant offers a new set of lunch menus, Monday to Friday. The menu includes Thai Hot Prawn Soup, Stir-Fried Fish with Celery, Pork with Kangkong in Red Curry and Coconut Milk, and Banana in Syrup with Ice Cream. Benjarong also serves special Thai cocktails and its own brand of drinks to complement your meal, including Thai Iced tea and *pandan* juice. Call 867-3333 local 3351 and 3352 or 3311-3315 for outside catering services.

HYATT Regency Manila's Café al Fresco features "Festival de la Cocina Mexicana" until Sept. 15. Dishes include *pescados* (fish) and *mariscos* (shellfish), *pollo pibil, cochinita pibil* (slow-roasted pork in banana leaves with the famed *achiote* sauce, *papadzules, escabeche* and *huevos motulenos panuchos*—all with chilis and salsas. Tortillas make the perfect accompaniment. For drinks, ice-cold *aguas frescas* like *horchata* (rice-seed) and *jamaica* (hibiscus flower) are featured, while flan and *churros* are among the desserts.

SULO Hotel's Sushi Bar and Teppanyaki Japanese Restaurant offers blue marlin, cod fish, salmon, shrimp and US black angus beef. Combo specials such as Hokake (scallop, oyster and mussels), Makajibe (blue marlin and prawns), Toribe (chicken and lobster tail), Nik-ka (tenderloin and cuttlefish) and Niku-sha (sirloin and salmon fillet) and Kaisenyori Moriawase (Mixed Seafood—Tuna, Cuttlefish and Prawns) are also available. Every combo is served with appetizer, salad, *miso* soup, fried rice, vegetables and dessert. Sulo Hotel is located at Matalino Road, Diliman, QC. Call 924-5051 to 71.

SNACK EXCHANGE
bon bon
peanut cream-filled chocolate in fancy boxes
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO



Sarap na 'di basta pinulot sa Kangkungan!
Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo ang inyong Kangkong. Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.
MANG TOMAS All-Around Sarsa
MANG TOMAS KUSINA BILIDAD
All-Around Sarap mula sa All Around Sarsa

Kangkong a la Mang Tomas

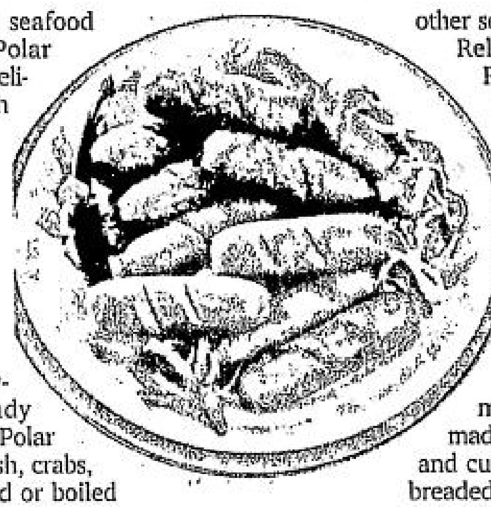
INGREDIENTS:
1 cup Kangkong leaves
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
1 tbsp. Onion, chopped
2 tbsp. Yellow bean tausi, drained
1/2 cup lechon meat
1/2 tbsp. Datu Puti Patis
1/2 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
2 tbsp. UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil

PROCEDURE:
1. Saute garlic, onion, and yellow beans in oil.
2. Add lechon meat, Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa and fish sauce.
3. Let boil and cook.
4. Lastly add the kangkong leaves. Simmer to cook.

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawal lutuin.

COP 2002 organizers are headed by chair Myrna Segismundo of Restaurant 9501 and HRAP president Michael Herrmann of Hotel InterContinental Manila (seated second and third from left in photo). Other organizing committee members are (seated L-R) Fred Fricke (Chaine des Rotisseurs), Noemi Cancio (St. Scholastica's College) and Mitos Araneta (Alfredo's Steak House). Standing (L-R) are Annette Favila (HRAP), Lyn Sunico (Makati Skyline), Raul Ramos (Restaurant 9501), Beth dela Fuente (HRAP), Michaela Fenix (PinoyCentral) and Jenny Peña (Hotel InterContinental). Call 527-5113/5045/9926.

Low-fat 'longanisa' seasoned with natural spices



SEACHAMP, veteran processed seafood manufacturer, introduces its Polar Brand Fish Longanisa. This new delicacy is made from fresh white fish meat and contains 35-percent less fat than pork. Seasoned with natural spices, Seachamp's Polar Brand Fish Longanisa has no extenders, no chemical additives and is guaranteed nitrite-free.

The Fish Longanisa comes in 300-g packs containing nine fish links each, and is the newest addition to Seachamp's Polar ready-to-cook seafood dishes. Already breaded or stuffed, Seachamp's Polar products are made from fresh fish, crabs, squid or shrimp. Baked, steamed or boiled in soup base, microwave-heated or pan-fried in vegetable oil, or in no-stick pans, Seachamp's Polar seafood provides low-fat, high-protein and easy-to-serve meals your family will surely enjoy.

Check out your nearest supermarket for Seachamp's Polar Fish Longanisa and its other seafood delicacies. Also available are Rellenong Bangus, Breaded Calamari Rings with tartar sauce, Fish Franks (all-fish hotdogs), Breaded Mini Crab Cakes with honey tartar sauce, Squid Rolls, Breaded Shrimp Nuggets with sweet and sour sauce, and Fish Fingers with Dijon mustard sauce. You can also try the all-natural fish burger patties that have 33-percent less fat than regular hamburger; the stuffed crab shells made from high-protein fresh crab meat, a combination of seafood balls made from real fresh fish, squid, shrimp and cuttlefish skewered in bamboo sticks; breaded shrimp popcorn, available in three flavors—plain, Mexican barbecue and sour cream and onion.

Seachamp's Polar instant seafood dishes are now available at selected Rustan's, SM, Robinsons, Shopwise and Puregold branches and other leading supermarkets.

Call 831-4331/833-1614.

Chefs on Parade set on Sept. 19-21

THE HOTEL and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP), a 301-establishment-strong organization with a total membership of 2,864 establishments, is coming up with the biggest Chefs on Parade (COP) culinary arts show on Sept. 19-21 at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC) on Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The longest running event of its kind in the Asean region, COP marks its silver jubilee this year.

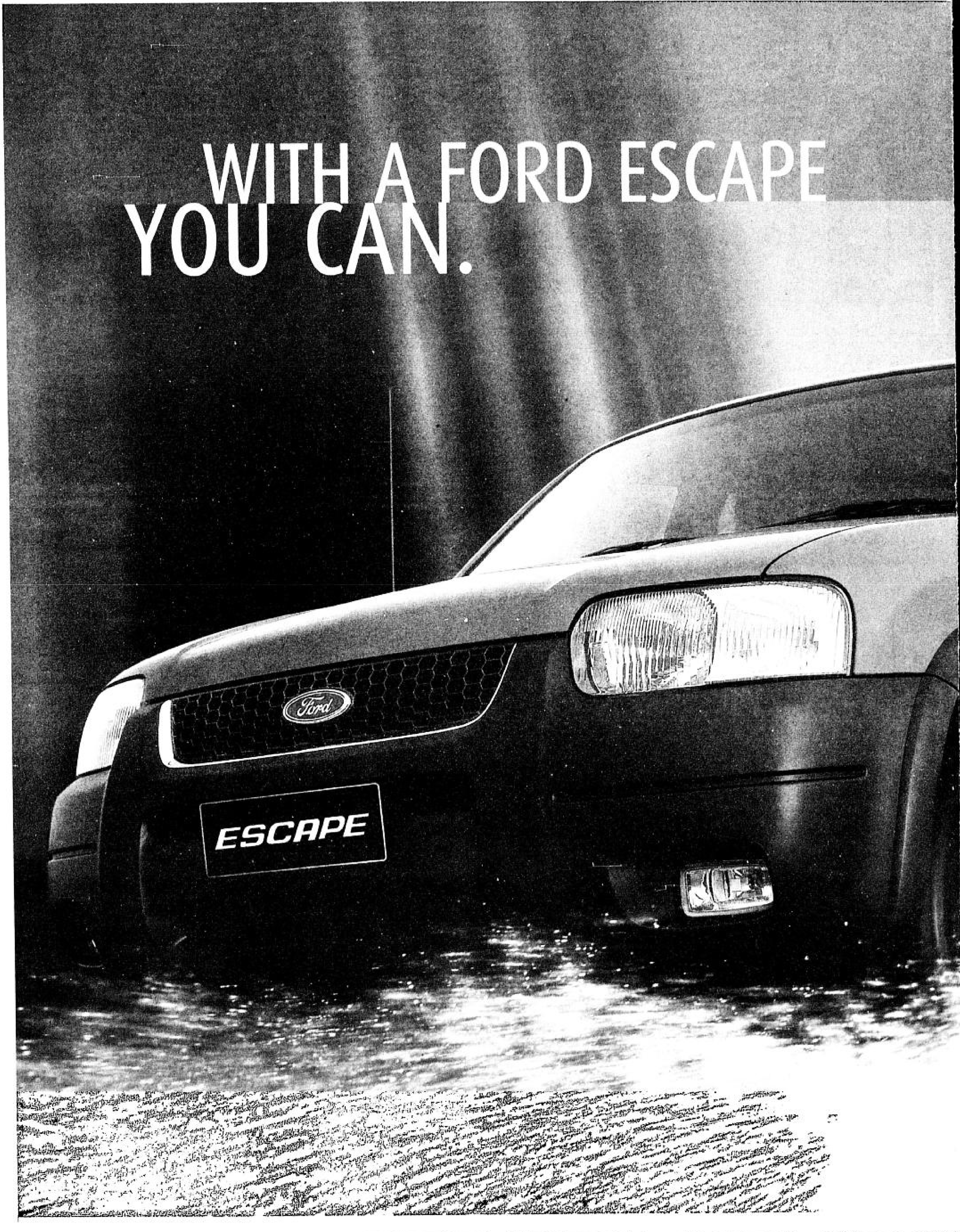
In addition to on-the-spot competitions on food preparation and presentation, beverage service and culinary artistry, there will be seminars on food writing, food styling, photography and wines. To encourage food writing as a profession, a competition on food writing—the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Award for Food Writing—will be open for HRAP member schools' HRM teachers and students. The three-day event also boasts of a book and magazine fair on culinary arts and booth displays by purveyors of food, beverage and culinary equipment. COP is open to the public and admission price is inclusive of seminar participation.

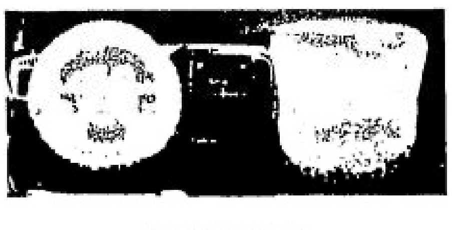
Tuna congress in Gensan

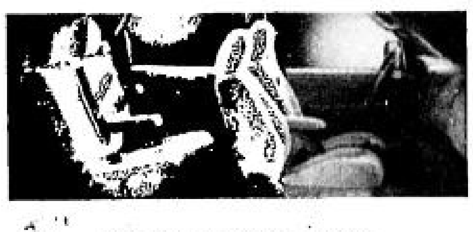
"LAYAG Gensan: Celebrating the Great Tuna Revolution" is the theme for this year's tuna festival in celebration of General Santos City's 34th charter anniversary today. One of the highlights of the tuna festival is the fourth National Tuna Congress, with its theme "Fish Without Barriers," which is ongoing until tomorrow at the Family Country Hotel and Convention Center. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver the keynote address at today's Tuna Congress opening ceremonies.

Highlight of the event is the Tuna Float Parade and Street Dancing Competition which will be participated in by different groups headed by RD Corp.

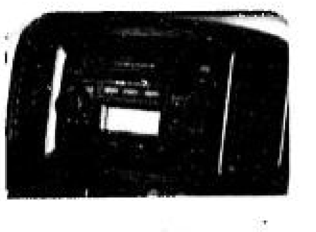
Call (083) 552-4660, (083) 552-4575, (083) 552-4139, or (083) 380-7328.




Dual SRS Airbags


Roomiest interior in its class

Control Trac II™ 4WD System


6 CD In-Dash Stereo

Seatback Trays with Cupholders

See the Escape up close.
Come to the Glorietta Activity Center
from August 31 to September 6.

Ford Alabang, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang - Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628; Fax No.: 807-4430

Ford Cabanatuan, Maharlika Highway, Sumacab-Este, Cabanatuan City; Tel No.: (044) 464-0111, Fax No.: (044) 600-4200

Ford Balintawak, EDSA cor. Seminary Road, Balintawak, Quezon City; Trunk Line 927 9648, Fax No 927-5981

Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga, Trunk Line. (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos.. (045) 963-5205 / 961-227

Catering seminar set

CATERERS, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) to its Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop on Sept. 9-18, 1-5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC.

The eight-day training will feature lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements, planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, room arrangements, napkin folding and table skirting, among others. Trainers are foodservice consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division in Chefs on Parade.

Call 787-6370 or (0919) 550-0601, e-mail pactraining@hotmail.com, or visit www.info.com.ph/~pactserv. Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P4,500 per participant, inclusive of field trip to food and equipment suppliers and a restaurant visit, manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue and back will be provided.

THE NEW Primo Pizza beefs up carnivorous palates! Fancy a thick-crusted pizza with an all-meat topping of pepperoni, beef, bacon and spiced ham flavored with mozzarella cheese, mushrooms and onions. The result is temptation overload. Greenwich continues to develop the premium category of its Primo Pizza line, which started with the Primo Classic and Seafood Primo.

Bowlful of Chinese flavors

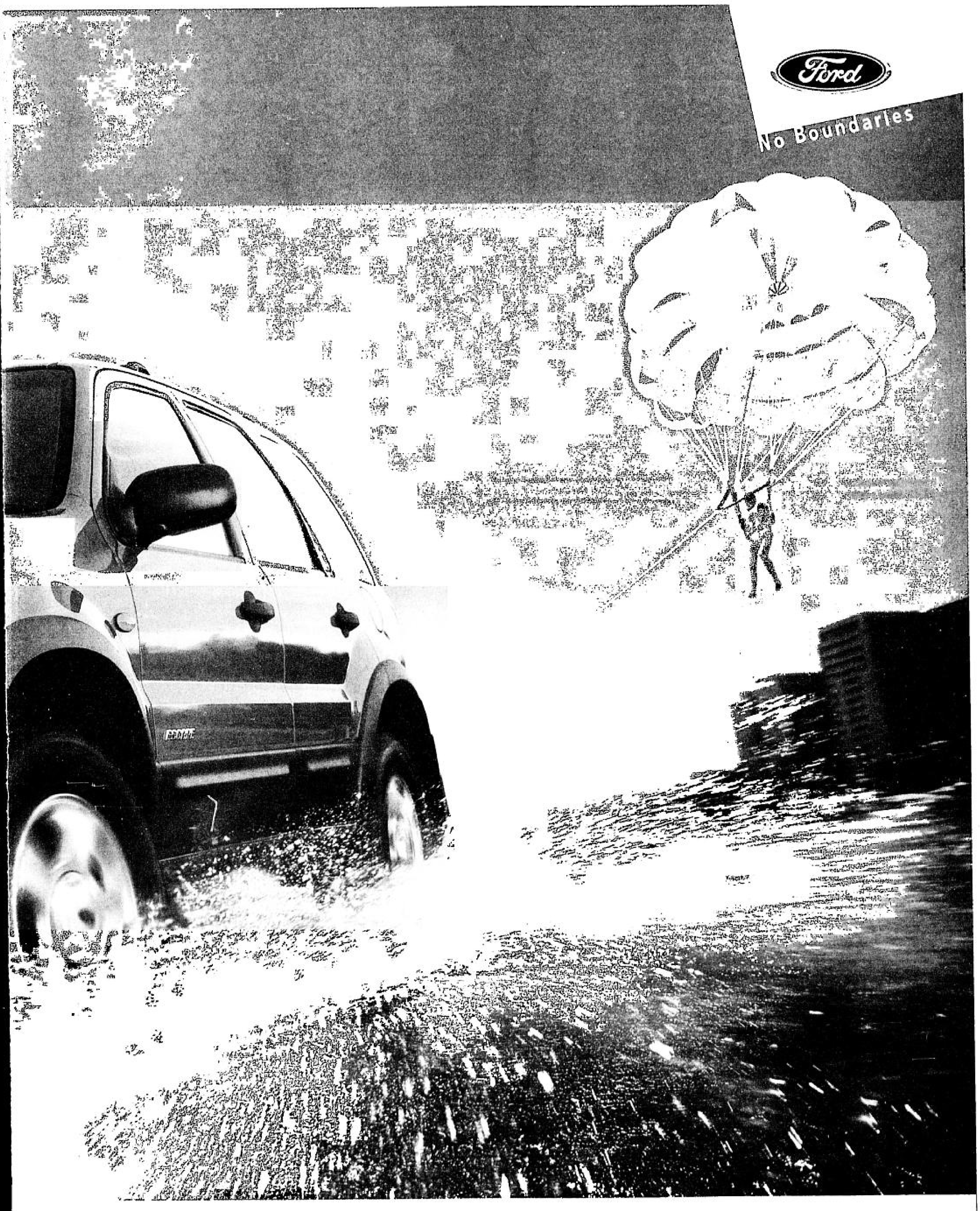
A CHINESE food haven in a casual American style-inspired setting? While it may sound like a paradox to some, this East-meets-West concept has been the winning formula of Super Bowl of China.

Serving Chinese dishes in portions fit for kings in a cozy, yet no-frills ambience, the restaurant continues to gain a strong following among families, executives, young professionals and the gimmick crowd who crave good food at great prices. Open for lunch and dinner, Super Bowl's fuss-free takeout service is also a big hit, not to mention its catering business.

The menu includes assorted dimsum, congee, noodles, roasts; fried rice and toppings, vegetable, seafood, pork, beef and chicken dishes, and desserts.

Of the rice toppings, topnotchers are the Lapu-Lapu Fillet with Tausi Sauce and Assorted Seafood on Rice, while guests can't seem to get enough of main dishes like the Sweet and Sour Lapu-Lapu Fillet, Deep-fried Spicy Prawns, Crispy Lemon Chicken and Deep-fried Cuttlefish with Spicy Salt. Under the noodles heading, try Crispy Noodles with Assorted Seafood and Crispy Noodles with Mushroom and Vegetable. To finish off the meal, dig into a sumptuous serving of Mango Pudding. The average price of a rice topping is only P120. For main dishes, be ready to shell out an average of P155 per dish.

Super Bowl outlets are located in Megastrip, SM Megamall B and on Jupiter Street corner Astra, Bel-Air Village, Makati City. It will open in Glorietta 4 on Sept. 9.



A 2.0L Zetec engine, the unique Control Trac II™ 4WD System and the roomiest interior in a compact SUV. Whatever your form of escape, here's true reason why getting there is half the fun. Now, between the city and the great outdoors, there are no more boundaries.

FORD ESCAPE
www.ford.com.ph

ERA
EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Ford EDSA, 29 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila; Trunk Lines 726-7181 to 85, Fax No. 723-6311
Ford Bacolod, Araneta St., Barangay Singcang, Bacolod City; Telefax No. (034) 434-2877
Ford Libis, 186 E. Rodriguez Jr Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City; Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No. 637-6008
Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor. P Burgos St., Cebu City 6000; Trunk Line (032) 253-0453; Fax No. (032) 253-0429
Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City 1231; Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No. 815-0513
Ford Iloilo, Diversion Road, Bakhaw Mandurriao, Iloilo City Tel No. (033) 321-3351 to 52; Fax No.: (033) 321-3351
Ford Quezon Avenue, Quezon Avenue corner Apo Street, Quezon City; Tel nos 732-3943 / 732-3945, Fax No: 742-3451
Ford Davao, Km. 6, Lanang, Davao City; Tel No. (082) 234-1111, Fax No.: (082) 234-2222

Cooking on a budget

From page C8

and form into patties. Fry in hot oil until brown. Turn to brown other side.

Meatless Rellenong Talong

3 eggplants, big
1 clove garlic, pounded
1 onion, sliced
2-3 tomatoes, sliced
¼ c water
1 tsp salt
Banana leaves
Pepper to taste

Broil eggplant and remove skin. Flatten with a fork. Set aside. In 1 tsp cooking oil, sauté onion and tomatoes. Add well-drained banana blossom and cook for 1 min. Remove from pan. Combine egg, flour and water and add to banana blossom mixture. Season to taste.

Divide mixture into three and pour each portion onto eggplant. Place eggplant on banana leaf and cook in remaining oil. Invert and fry other side. Do the same with the other 2 eggplants.

Meatless Dinuguan

1 tbsp cooking oil
1 clove garlic, pounded
1 onion, sliced
2½ green papaya, diced
1 tbsp salt
¼ c vinegar
½ c pig's clotted blood, sliced
¼ c water

Heat cooking oil. Sauté garlic until golden brown and onion is wilted. Add green papaya. Season with salt. Cook for 8 mins., stirring occasionally. Add vinegar. Let boil. Add pig's blood. Stir until it coagulates. Add water and stir until blood thickens and is fully cooked (until nearly dry).

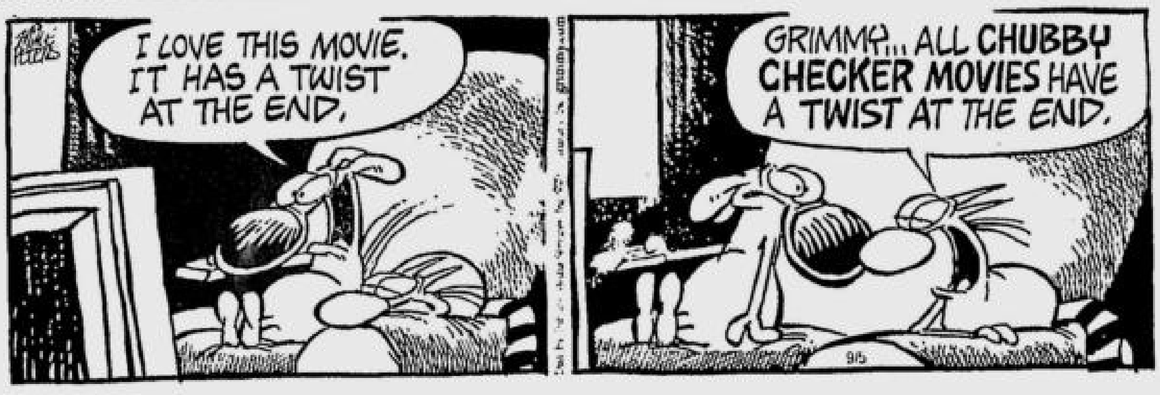
Ipon Tamales

1 c *dulong*, packed
1 onion, chopped finely
1 pc ginger chopped finely
¼ c vinegar
1 tsp salt

Mix all ingredients. Soften banana leaves over flame. Cut banana leaves into 8x8" squares. Put 2 tbsp of mixture on each leaf and wrap. Cook over low fire for 6 mins.

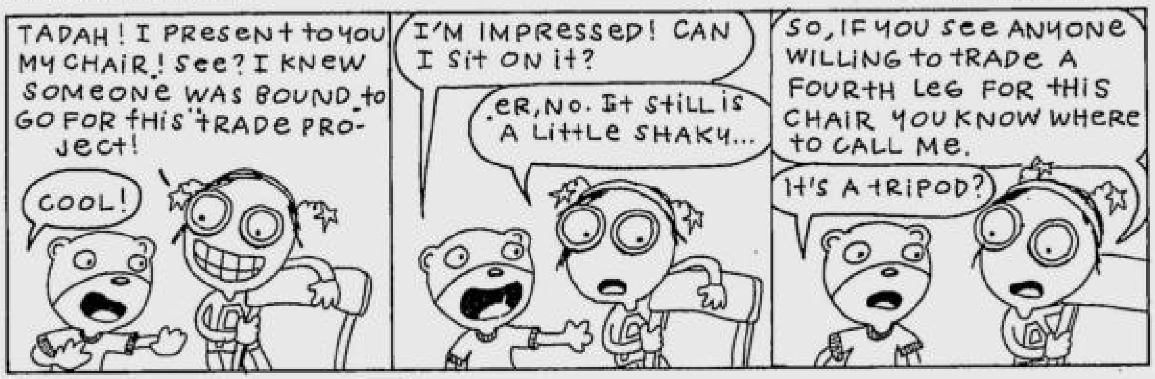
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I LOVE THIS MOVIE. IT HAS A TWIST AT THE END.
GRIMMY... ALL CHUBBY CHECKER MOVIES HAVE A TWIST AT THE END.
9/5

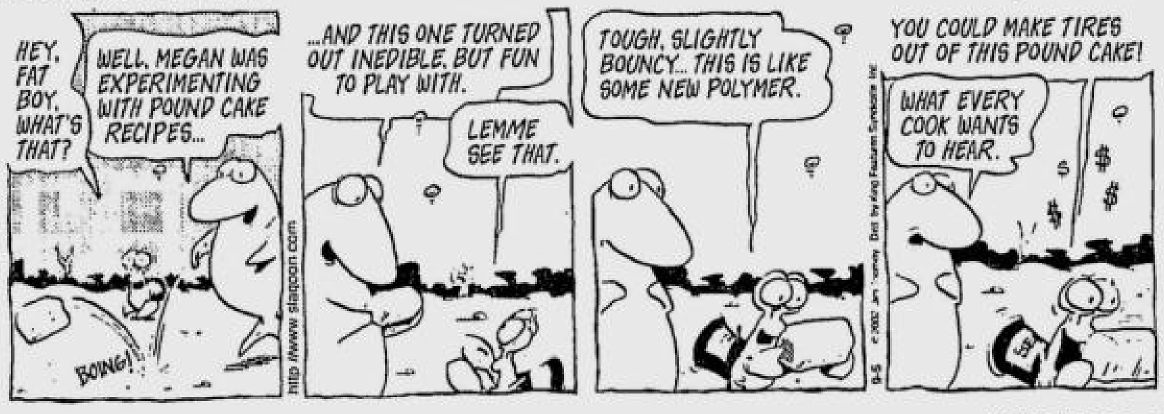
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TADAH! I PRESENT TO YOU MY CHAIR! SEE? I KNEW SOMEONE WAS BOUND TO GO FOR THIS "TRADE PROJECT!
COOL!
I'M IMPRESSED! CAN I SIT ON IT?
ER, NO. IT STILL IS A LITTLE SHAKY...
SO, IF YOU SEE ANYONE WILLING TO TRADE A FOURTH LEG FOR THIS CHAIR YOU KNOW WHERE TO CALL ME.
IT'S A TRIPOD?

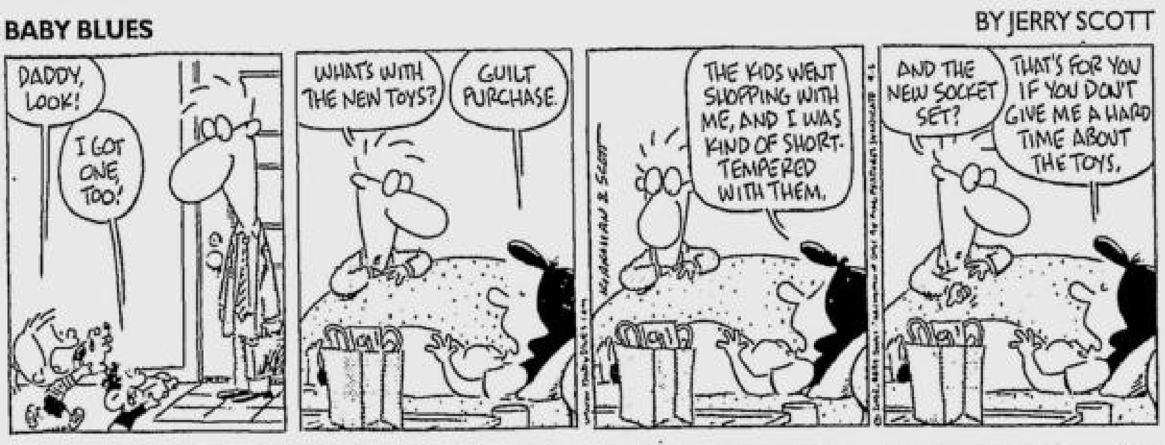
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, FAT BOY, WHAT'S THAT?
WELL, MEGAN WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH POUND CAKE RECIPES...
BOING!
http://www.slagoon.com
...AND THIS ONE TURNED OUT INEDIBLE, BUT FUN TO PLAY WITH.
LEMME SEE THAT.
TOUGH, SLIGHTLY BOUNCY... THIS IS LIKE SOME NEW POLYMER.
YOU COULD MAKE TIRES OUT OF THIS POUND CAKE!
WHAT EVERY COOK WANTS TO HEAR.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, LOOK!
I GOT ONE, TOO!
WHAT'S WITH THE NEW TOYS?
GUILT PURCHASE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
THE KIDS WENT SHOPPING WITH ME, AND I WAS KIND OF SHORT-TEMPERED WITH THEM.
AND THE NEW SOCKET SET?
THAT'S FOR YOU IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME A HARD TIME ABOUT THE TOYS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raquel Welch, Bob Newhart, Carol Lawrence

Happy Birthday: You have a mission this year--to make headway regardless of the sacrifices you have to make. Prepare to make a move that will help you move on to better things. Set your sights high and you will acquire everything you set your mind to. Your numbers are 17, 22, 24, 36, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's a good day to get out of the house. Since you're outgoing and quick-witted, you're likely to attract others readily. Play by the rules and you will stay ahead of the game.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's not a good time to ask for favors. Even your lover will be reluctant to accommodate you. Take time to relax today; you could use the rest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a day for a lot of movement. You'll bump into new potential friends or lovers. Prepare yourself--some stamina will be required if you wish to keep up the fast pace.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): People will be unpleasant on the home front today. Be responsible at home even if it seems meaningless for a moment. Financial gain is in the air.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try not to overreact to transitions in your private life. Listen intently to the advice of good friends. Put your energy into doing nice things for others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid focusing too much on the affairs of others. Concentrate on finding ways to better appreciate yourself. You may realize that a child's insight might divulge some incredible information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Involving yourself in organizations you find worthwhile may lead you to a person who you find emotionally compelling. Be patient and don't be too quick to be a follower. You will make a much bigger impact if you do your own thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Expect others to slow you down or hold you back today. Keep your intentions to yourself, especially in the workplace. If someone gets wind of what you are doing, it may be harmful to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your research and you can rest assured that you are making the right choices today. Be social with stimulating people. It's a good day to listen and learn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some scrutiny is necessary regarding your financial affairs. You may want to reallocate some money, change some investments or just tighten your purse strings. Someone may be quietly brooding because of something you did or said.

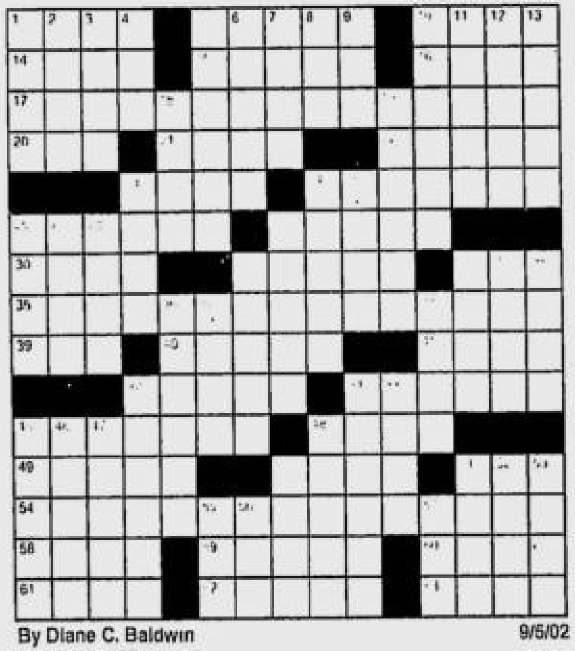
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Since love is on your mind, it's a good time to be romantic. Plan a special evening. The time to join forces with someone special is now. Don't think about it; make your move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're likely to meet a potential partner at work, but take it slowly. Also, try to be prudent with your money; overspending has been a problem in the past and will be in the future.

Birthday Baby: You will have a very infectious and pleasing manner. You will take chances but you will always do your research first.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/5/02

ACROSS
- 1 Kissable girl on Broadway?
- 5 Indian royalty
- 10 Satiate
- 14 Very wicked
- 15 Split to get hitched
- 16 Earring's location
- 17 Salvage
- 20 Drivers lic. and such
- 21 In a jiff
- 22 Bring about
- 23 Hardy heroine
- 24 Dangerous flies
- 26 March
- 29 Opera highlights
- 30 Graven image
- 31 Taking to court
- 32 Audit taker
- 35 Repair
- 39 Printer's measures
- 40 Tijuana ta-ta
- 41 Bumpkin
- 42 Cash boxes
- 43 Pickups
- 45 Pensioner
- 48 Warty critter
- 49 Exhilarate
- 50 Darkens
- 51 Lobster eggs
- 54 Improve
- 58 Perimeter
- 59 Spotted pony
- 60 Forty-niner's quest
- 61 Promising clue
- 62 Muscle cramp
- 63 Approve

DOWN
- 1 French military cap
- 2 Enthusiastic
- 3 Twitches
- 4 Fraternal order member
- 5 Stegner novel, "Angle of _"
- 6 Glee club voices
- 7 "Your Song" singer Elton
- 8 Go _ (freak out)
- 9 With it, once
- 10 Traction providers
- 11 Math point set
- 12 Too tubby
- 13 Favorable responses
- 18 Secondhand
- 19 Glacial epoch
- 23 After-shower powder
- 24 Musical ensembles
- 25 Tell all
- 26 Water conduit
- 27 Sandler of "The Wedding Singer"
- 28 Decomposes
- 29 Highway vehicles
- 31 Steps over a fence
- 32 In vogue
- 33 Little kiss
- 34 Boats like Noah's
- 36 Not bald
- 37 Stagnant
- 38 Muffled sound
- 42 Like the nobility
- 43 Type of drum
- 44 Foolhardy
- 45 Mutineer
- 46 [illegible]
- 47 Subarctic forest
- 48 Shades
- 50 Title for a Brazilian lady
- 51 Chess piece
- 52 Earthenware jar
- 53 Whirl in the [illegible]
- 55 Escalates
- 56 Die dot
- 57 Braggart's problem

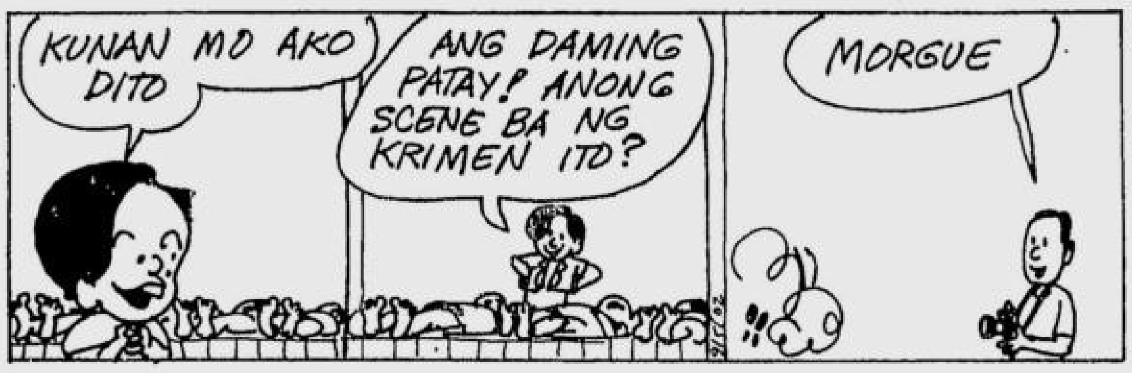
Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	L	A	S	■	S	E	R	A	■	I	D	E	S
S	H	A	R	P	■	T	O	O	T	■	N	O	M	E
P	O	W	E	R	L	U	N	C	H	■	T	O	M	E
S	U	N	■	A	I	D	S	■	L	E	H	M	A	N
■	■	■	O	Y	E	S	■	G	E	R	E	■	■	■
S	C	E	N	E	S	■	D	E	T	E	C	T	E	D
T	A	P	E	D	■	M	U	N	I	■	R	O	B	E
E	R	S	T	■	P	A	N	I	C	■	U	R	E	A
A	V	O	W	■	L	I	C	E	■	G	N	A	R	L
L	E	M	O	N	A	D	E	■	Y	A	C	H	T	S
■	■	■	P	A	T	E	■	B	U	S	H	■	■	■
O	N	D	U	T	Y	■	[illegible]	O	M	O	■	A	[illegible]	H
R	O	A	N	■	P	L	A	Y	A	H	U	N	C	H
E	P	I	C	■	[illegible]	S	E	[illegible]	■	O	S	T	E	O
M	E	S	H	■	S	U	N	S	■	L	A	I	R	S

(C) 2002 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved

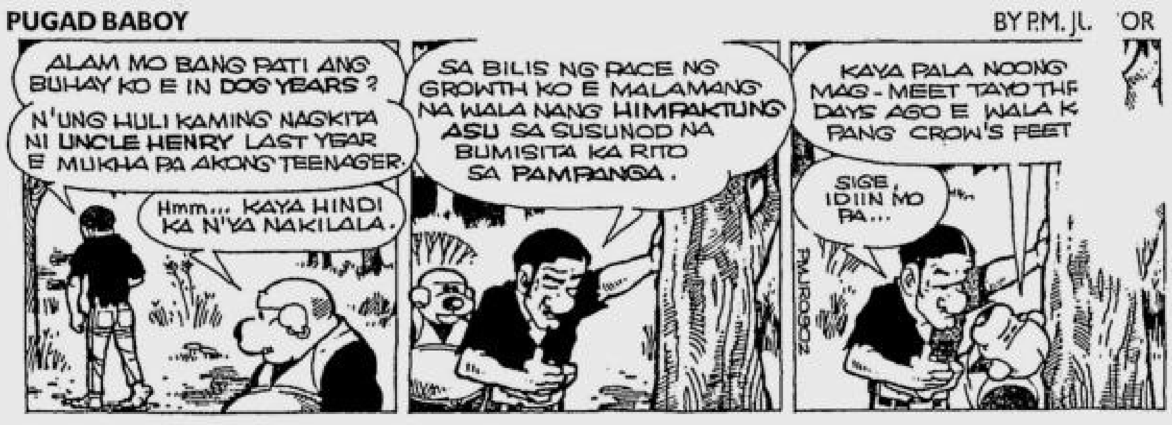
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KUNAN MO AKO DITO
ANG DAMING PATAY! ANONG SCENE BA NG KRIMEN ITO?
MORGUE

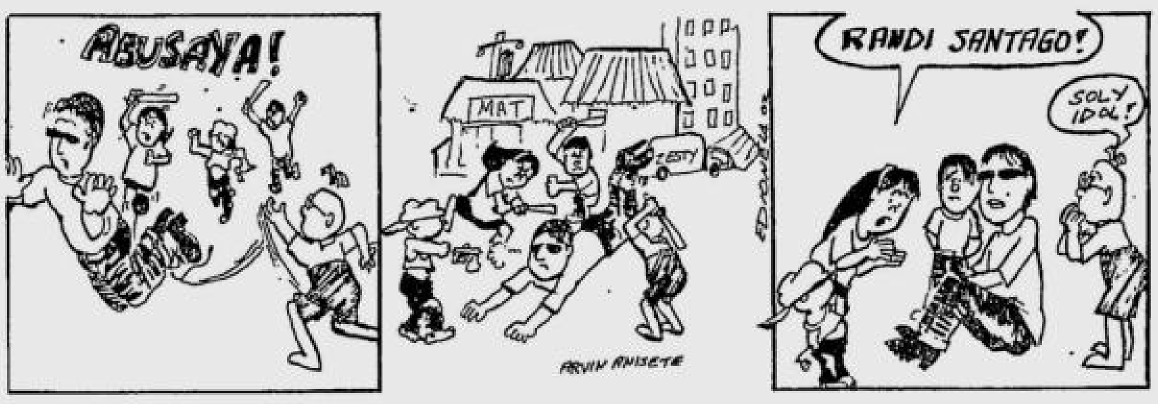
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JU OR


ALAM MO BANG PATI ANG BUHAY KO E IN DOG YEARS?
N'UNG HULI KAMING NAGKITA NI UNCLE HENRY LAST YEAR E MUKHA PA AKONG TEENAGER.
Hmm... KAYA HINDI KA N'YA NAKILALA.
SA BILIS NG PACE NG GROWTH KO E MALAMANG NA WALA NANG HIMPAKTUNG ASU SA SUSUNOD NA BUMISITA KA RITO SA PAMPANGA.
KAYA PALA NOONG MAG-MEET TAYO THE DAYS AGO E WALA K PANG CROW'S FEET
SIGE, IDIIN MO PA...
PMJR0902

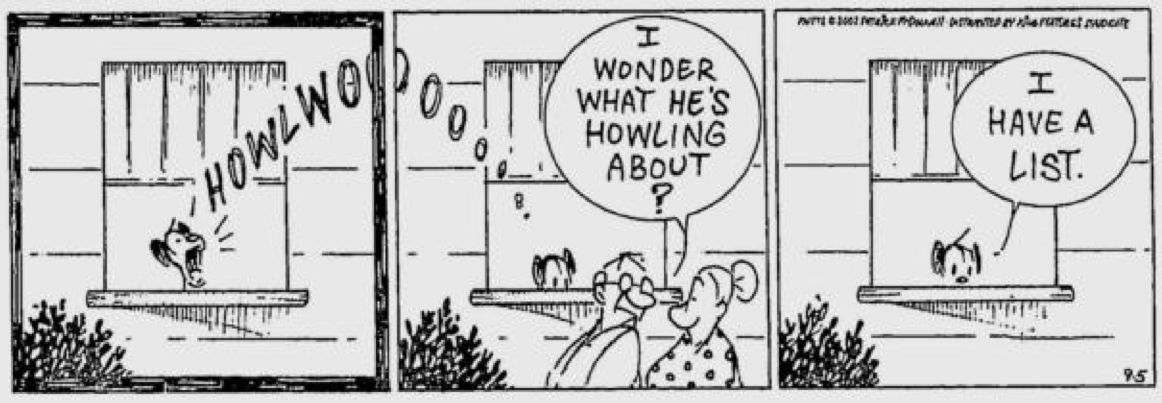
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ABUSAYA!
MAT
ZESTY
ARVIN ANISETE
RANDI SANTAGO!
SOLY IDOL!

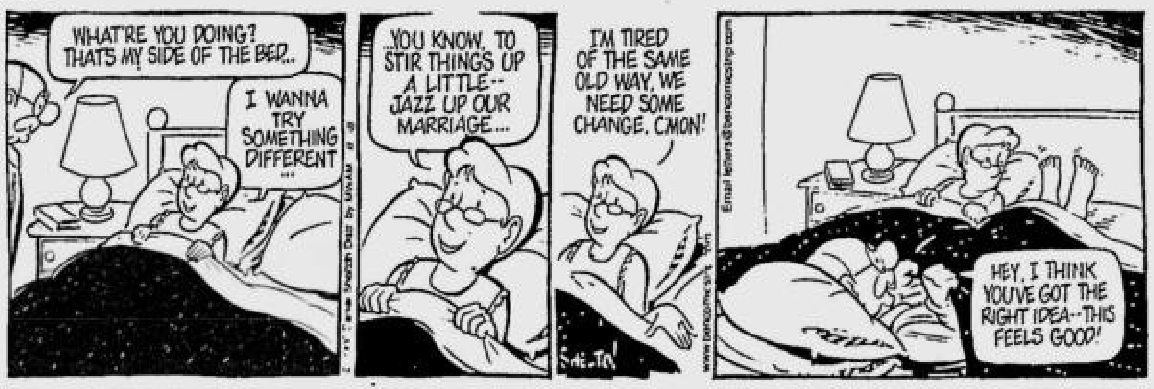
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOWLWOOOO
I WONDER WHAT HE'S HOWLING ABOUT?
I HAVE A LIST.
9-5

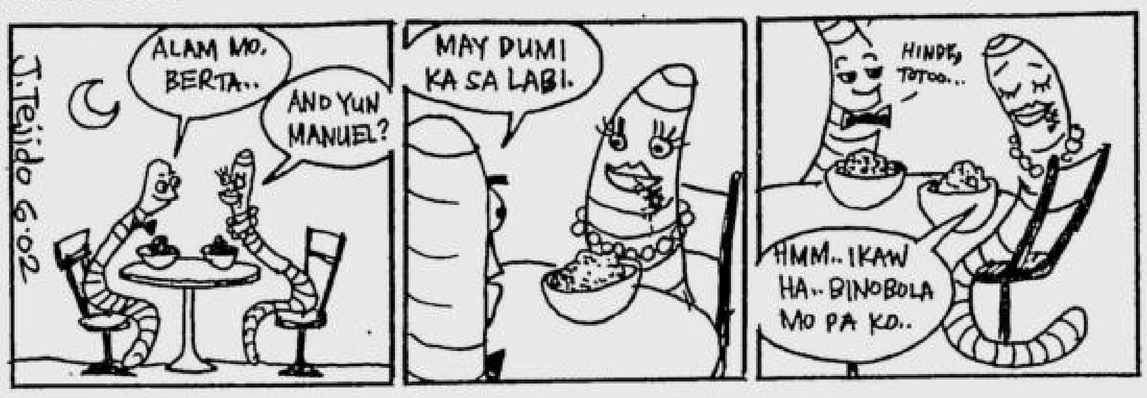
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT'RE YOU DOING? THAT'S MY SIDE OF THE BED..
I WANNA TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT ...
...YOU KNOW, TO STIR THINGS UP A LITTLE-- JAZZ UP OUR MARRIAGE...
I'M TIRED OF THE SAME OLD WAY. WE NEED SOME CHANGE. C'MON!
HEY, I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA--THIS FEELS GOOD!

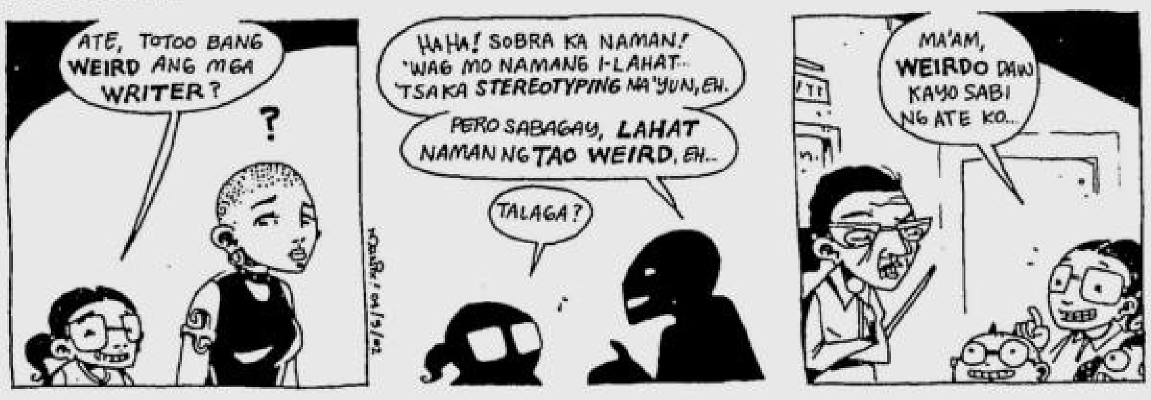
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J.Tejido 6.02
ALAM MO, BERTA..
AND YUN MANUEL?
MAY DUMI KA SA LABI.
HINDI, TOTOO...
HMM.. IKAW HA.. BINOBOLA MO PA KO..

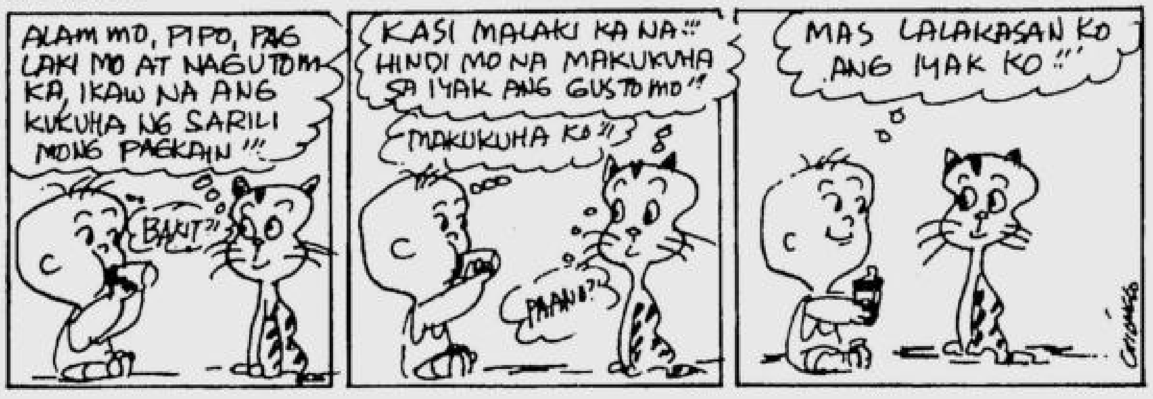
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ATE, TOTOO BANG WEIRD ANG MGA WRITER?
?
HAHA! SOBRA KA NAMAN! 'WAG MO NAMANG I-LAHAT.. 'TSAKA STEREOTYPING NA 'YUN, EH.
PERO SABAGAY, LAHAT NAMAN NG TAO WEIRD, EH..
TALAGA?
MA'AM, WEIRDO DAW KAYO SABI NG ATE KO..

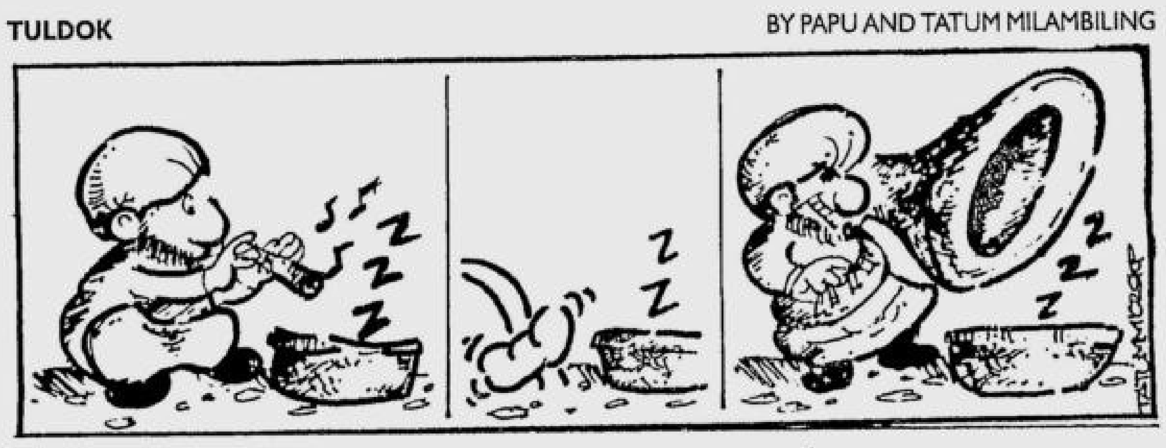
LOVEKNOTS

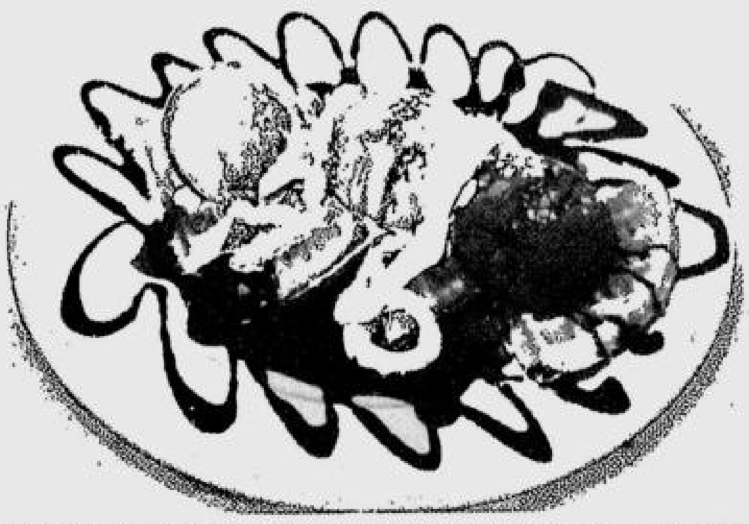
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, PIPO, PAG LAKI MO AT NAGUTOM KA, IKAW NA ANG KUKUHA NG SARILI MONG PAGKAIN!!!
BAKIT?!
KASI MALAKI KA NA!!! HINDI MO NA MAKUKUHA SA IYAK ANG GUSTO MO!!
MAKUKUHA KO?!
PAANO?!
MAS LALAKASAN KO ANG IYAK KO!!
CHIONGLO

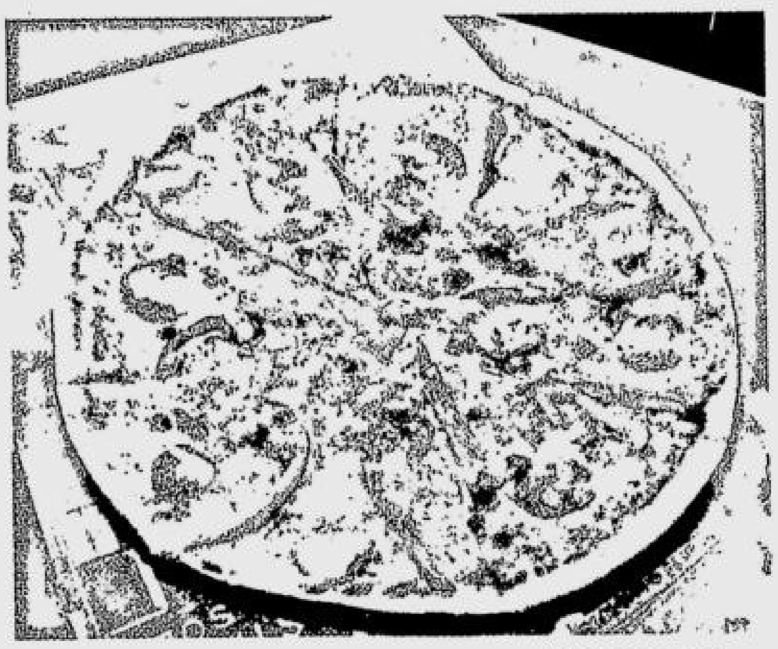
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

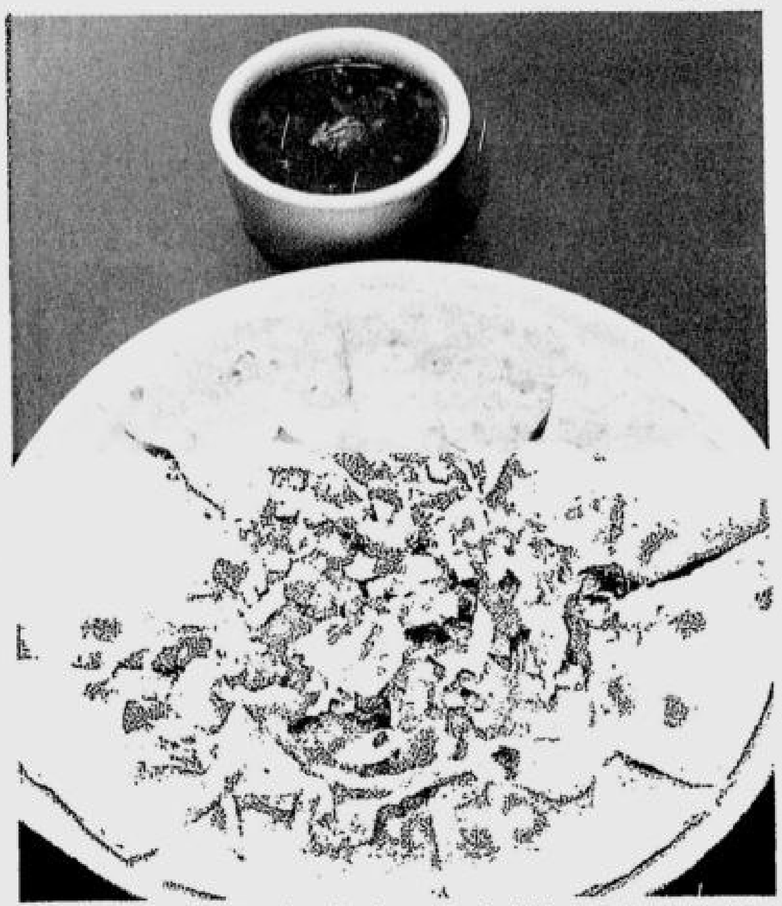




BELGIAN Waffle (waffles with chocolate, strawberry and vanilla ice cream, fudge and nuts)



HOT Pepperoni Pizza (spicy pepperoni, bell pepper and capers)



CHICKEN Quesadillas (garlic cheese and chicken strips folded in grilled flour tortilla)

The diner is alive and well and living it up

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

The Filling Station offers more than nostalgia on its menu

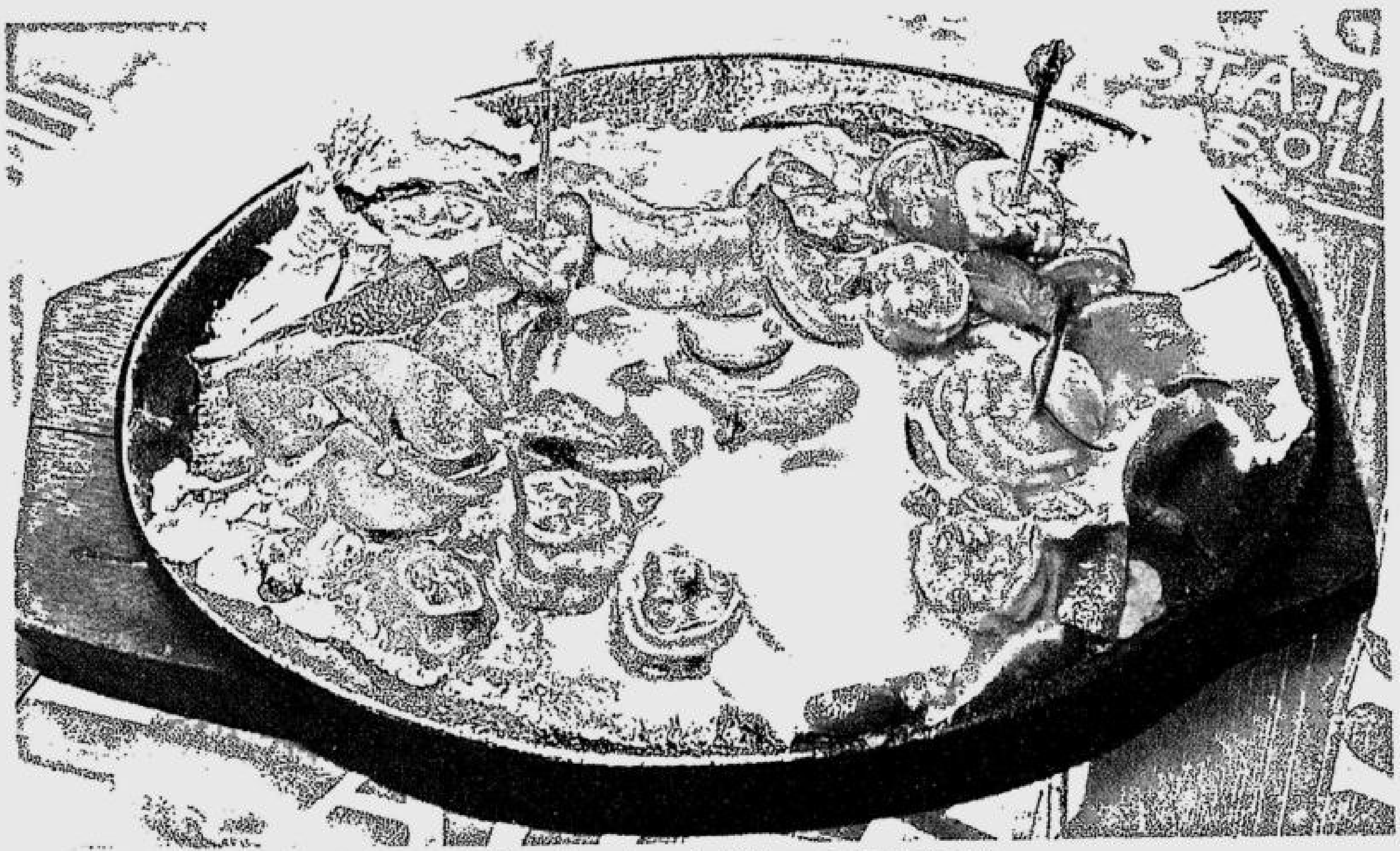
FORGIVE the average consumer for thinking he is in a time warp. Swing music is dominating ballroom parties, movies about World War II are topping the charts and martinis are the benchmark by which bartenders are judged.

Is it any wonder, then, that more than a few restaurateurs are betting the diner is poised for a comeback? Flor de la Cruz and Tess Reyes think so. The owners of Filling Station in Makati and Alabang say there is much about the concept that strikes the right chord in today's fast-paced, multimedia, computer-dominated lifestyle.

"Interpersonal contact is at such a premium these days," says general manager De la Cruz. "Going into these places, where the servers get to know you, the food is good and the service great, is very nourishing."

Today's version of the diner isn't an exact replica of the places that had their heyday in '30s, '40s and '50s America.

The diner actually dates back even further—to the 1800s when workers bought their meals from a cart that pulled up to the factory. But the diner most people are familiar with, and the one being emulated today, features booth seating, stools at a counter with a view of the kitchen, tile floors, stainless steel exteriors, neon lights and signs, and flashy color schemes. Old Coca-Cola vendo machines and old-fashioned uniforms complete the picture.



GAMBAS à la Parilla (sizzling shrimps sautéed in garlic; onion and chili topped with fresh egg)

FLOR de la Cruz (left), Filling Station general manager, and Tess Reyes, VP-finance/administrator

At Filling Station, a 1968 jukebox, a 1953 turquoise-colored refrigerator door, half a '55 Bel-Air Chevy hanging from the ceiling, old posters of cinema and music icons, antique phones, and radio and television sets are all aimed at bringing back memories of greasy spoons, cruising nights and rock 'n roll.

"There is definitely more interest in retro and nostalgia these days," says Reyes, VP for finance and administrator. "We've seen it in a lot of areas such as music, clothing and movies."

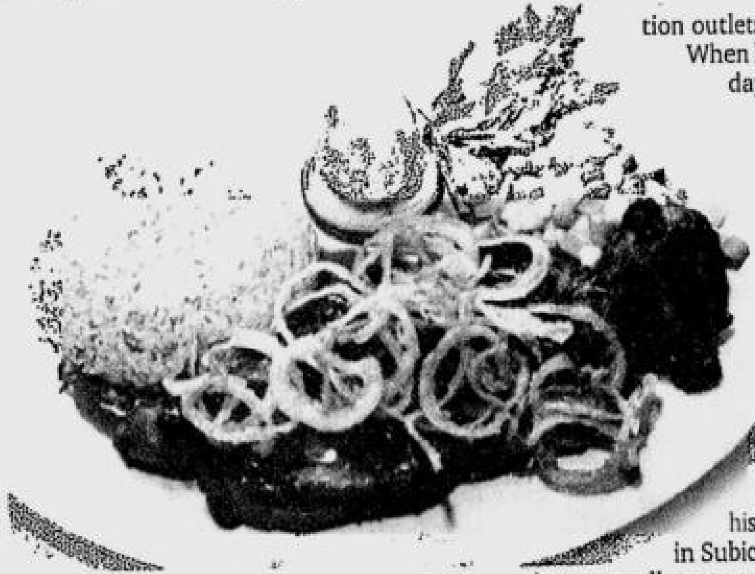
The diner also features seven billiard tables where everyone gets a chance to play for P15 per game. "It's challenge-the-winner," Reyes explains. "This way, people get to mingle and know each other."

Vibrant and colorful

Putting up a vibrant and colorful American diner was US Naval Sgt. and chef John Jeremy Hauser's dream ever since. "He wanted diners to experience the exciting era of the '50s and '60s," says Reyes.

A former partner of De la Cruz and Reyes, Hauser established Filling Station in 1995. "It's a replica of an American diner—old coaches turned into restaurants where most truck drivers stop and eat burgers, shakes, malts, steaks and fries," De la Cruz explains.

For 30 years, Hauser collected a treasure trove of unique items, which are now displayed at the Filling Station outlets in Makati and Alabang.



CHICKEN Dinner (half boneless grilled chicken with crispy onion rings)

FILLING Station displays a treasure trove of unique and antique items.

When he marked his 60th birthday last year, he sold lock, stock and barrel to De la Cruz and Reyes. He went home to Wisconsin to take care of his family's farm.

But before he left, Hauser worked closely with Filling Station chef Fred Cartago to perfect the former's original American diner recipes—the same ones he whipped up for the US troops during his tour of duty and brief stint in Subic. Before he sold the diner, he personally manned the kitchen.

Open 24 hours every day, Filling Station offers appetizers, soups, salads, breakfast fare, omelettes, burgers, sandwiches, specialties (Fairlane steak and prawns, T-Bird fried chicken, Corvette buffalo wings, Ford fish and chips, Cadillac grilled *tanguigue*, Chevrolet blue marlin), grilled items served with creole, herbs and nuts or garlic rice, pizza, pasta, pies, sausages and steaks. There's also Filipino food cooked to order, just the way customers like it, in a fun, friendly, nostalgic atmosphere.

The appeal of such food isn't necessarily that it brings back memories, but that it satisfies a wide cross-section of customers. "It puts everybody on an even playing field. Everybody wants a good burger or a good omelet at a good price," De la Cruz says.

Filling Station (tel. 897-2053 to 58 and 897-1965) is located at 5012 P. Burgos St., Makati and at 3/L Filinvest Mall, Alabang.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Hearty and healthy meals

HEALTH studies show that pregnant women (and those who plan to get pregnant) should have an adequate daily intake of folate or folic acid in their diets.

Folate is a vitamin that is an essential nutrient for growth and good health. It is necessary for the formation and development of new and normal tissue. New tissue forms at a rapid pace during pregnancy, and the body's need for folate nearly doubles. The neutral tube develops early in pregnancy, before most women know they are pregnant. The B-vitamin folate can help protect the neutral tube against defects in these crucial first weeks. Pregnant women should consume 0.4 mg of folate each day. The body cannot make folate, so it must be obtained from foods and supplements.

However, as much as 50 percent of folate may be destroyed during preparation, food processing and storage. Canned peas, for example, contain ½ folate of boiled peas.

Thus, Easy Cook Peas and Lentils are good for you.

Below are hearty and delicious recipes made with Easy Cook Peas and Lentils—good for moms and the baby in one's tummy. Try them at home for your day's supply of folate in your body.

For more free recipes and inquiries, write to Ideal Macaroni and Spaghetti Factory Inc., c/o Marketing Department at 33 Luna 2nd St., San Agustin, Malabon City, or e-mail idealmktg@edsamail.com.ph.

Healthier Tacos

1 c boiled Easy Cook Lentils, drained
¼ k ground beef
Salt and pepper to taste
1 c grated cheddar cheese
½ head Baguio lettuce, finely shredded
Taco shells

Salsa:
½ c chopped onions
½ c chopped tomatoes
¼ crushed cilantro leaves
2 tbsp lemon juice
2 tbsp tomato sauce
1 tbsp hot sauce

Mash the lentils very well. Season ground beef with salt and pepper. Toast ground beef in a pan till its own oil comes out. Cook till ground beef is dry. Drain well.

Prepare the salsa by combining chopped onions and tomatoes, cilantro leaves, lemon juice, tomato sauce and hot sauce.

To assemble: Take one taco shell and fill ¼ from the bottom with mashed lentils. Top with salsa, then lettuce, then beef and lastly, cheese.

Pea Macaroni Salad

400 g Ideal Premium Shell Macaroni
2 c soup stock
1 tbsp liquid seasoning
¼ c Easy Cook Yellow Split Peas
¼ c Easy Cook Green Split Peas (Boil peas till firm. Do not overcook. Drain very well.)

Grilled vegetables: Marinate in 2 tbsp olive oil, dash of salt and pepper, 1 tbsp sugar, 2 pc green and red bell pepper (seeded, cut into wide pieces), 2 salad tomatoes (sliced across, like for sandwiches). Other vegetables like squash may be added. Grill while basting with marinade. Combine with drained cooked peas in a salad bowl.

Dressing: Mix 3 tbsp vinegar, 1 tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp ground peppercorn, 2 tsp mustard and 1 tsp sugar. Prepare the dressing and toss to grilled vegetables and peas in it. Taste and adjust seasonings.

To serve: Spoon over cooked Ideal Premium Shell Macaroni on a bed of lettuce leaves.

Meet & Greet
DIANA ZUBIRI
RODEL VELAYO
BAKAT
Sept 4, 11 am - SM Tutuban
Sept 4, 1 pm - SM Manila
Sept 4, 2 pm - SM Centerpoint
Sept 4, 3 pm - SM North Edsa
Sept. 4, 5 pm - SM Megamall
Sept 5, 1 pm - SM Bacoor
Sept 5, 3 pm - SM Southmall
Sept 5, 5 pm - SM Sucat
at the Cinema Lobby
SM CINEMA
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Cooking on a budget

If you like the Frugal Gourmet, you will love the 'Poor Man's Cookbook'; last published 23 years ago, it deserves a reprinting

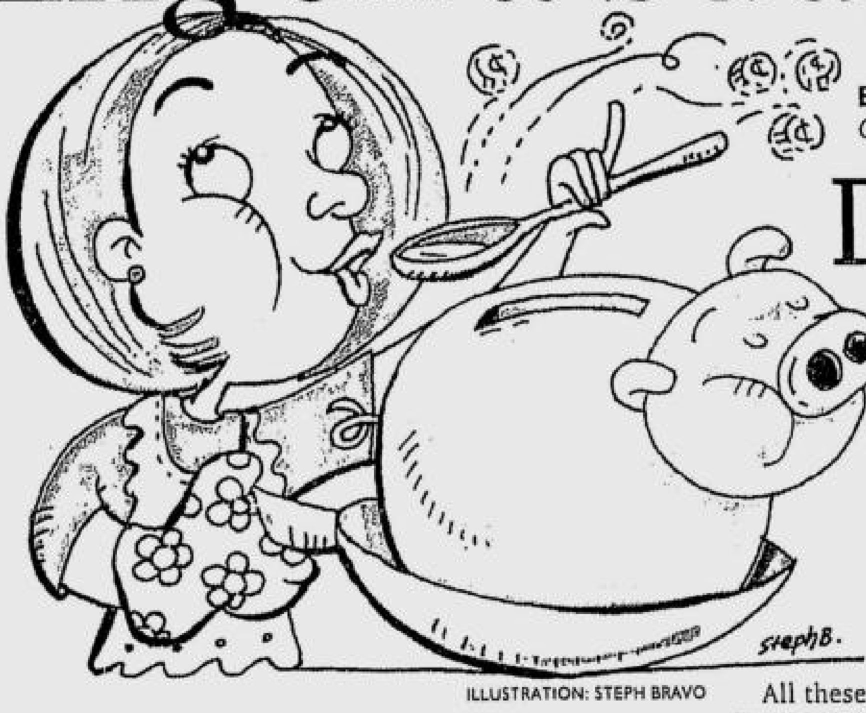


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Eufemia C. Estrada
Contributor

DID you know that you can make tortilla, *lumpiang shanghai*, *rellenong talong* and burgers using banana blossom? Meatless *dinuguan* using green papaya? Tamales using *dulong* or *dilis*? Salads from *talinum* or young mango leaves? And that there are more ways of preparing *galunggong* than by frying?

All these and more can be found in the "Poor Man's Cookbook," published 23 years ago by the Historical Conservation Society in cooperation with the Institute of Human Ecology of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and the Magnolia Dairy Products of San Miguel Corp.

From the former comes 70 recipes; from the latter, 28. Representing 22 provinces, the recipes are from five regions—Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, Visayas and the Ilocos-Mt. Provinces.

I chanced upon this book when I met Swiss expatriate Margaretha Gloor at the Makati Garden Club Show and she gave me a copy.

At the time of publication (1979), when a *ganta* of rice could be had for P6, the recipes cost P1 per serving. Digging up the book couldn't be timelier with the ever-increasing cost of living.

I tried getting in touch with Casa Linda, the sole distributor of the book, but it seems it has closed shop. Alfonso Felix Jr., then president of the society, has long been gone and presumably, so has the organization. It would be a great service if the book could be reprinted by whomever was connected with the society.

Because *galunggong* has been touted as the poor man's fish, I have selected three recipes featuring it; two recipes featuring banana blossoms; meatless *dinuguan* using green papaya, and tamales of *dilis* or *dulong*.

Fish Balls with Misua Soup

12 pc *galunggong*
Flour
Salt
Water
Pepper
1 onion, chopped
3 c fish stock
1 pack *misua*
1 *patola*, peeled and cut into rings

Boil fish, reserve stock and flake when cool enough to handle. Mix with flour, a little water, salt and pepper, and onion. (Use your discretion, I don't trust the amount mentioned in the book.) Form into balls.

Let fish stock come to a boil. Add fish balls, one at a time. Season to taste. When the fish balls float, add the *misua* noodles and *patola*. Remove from fire when the *patola* is cooked. Serve hot.

Fish Sinigang

5 fresh *galunggong*
5 c rice washing
1 tomato, sliced
6 medium-size ripe guavas, halved
Salt to taste
2 *sigarilyas*, strings removed and split into halves
1 bunch *kangkong* leaves, washed well

Clean fish well. Bring rice washing, tomato and guavas to a boil. Add fish and when it's almost cooked, add the *sigarilyas*. Cook for about three minutes, then add the *kangkong* leaves. Serve hot.

Pucherong Galunggong

4 tbsp cooking oil
3 pc *saba*
5 pc *galunggong*
1 onion
2 tomatoes
¼ c rice washing
Salt and pepper to taste
2 c *pechay* or cabbage

Slice bananas in half, horizontally, and fry. Fry *galunggong*. Set aside. In the remaining oil, sauté onion and tomatoes. Add rice washing and season with salt and pepper. Add the vegetables and the fried fish and *saba*. Cover pan and turn off heat. Serve hot.

Meatless Burger

3 c banana blossom
½ c bread crumbs
1 egg
1 small onion, chopped
2 tsp salt
Pinch of pepper
4 tbsp cooking oil

Remove tough parts of banana blossom. Cut tender part into half and boil in 2 c water until very tender. Chop finely. Add onion, breadcrumbs, seasoning and egg. Mix well

COOKING/ p.C5

The first and only one of its kind in the Philippines!

"Now, there's someone who'll take care of you in the event of an accident - kahit 75 years old ka na!"
Rosa Rosal

PHILAM DIRECT

C.A.R.E.
Cash Assurance & Recovery for Elders

GUARANTEED ACCEPTANCE
basta 50-75 years old ka

May cash benefits ka of up to
P4,000,000
for as low as
P399/month!

- No medical exams!
- No health questions!
- Cash paid directly and quickly to you
- As low as P399/month
- P25,000 weekly hospital cash for accidents
- Up to P250,000 cash benefit for Broken Bones, Burns, and Internal Injuries
- 24-Hour Worldwide Coverage
- Coverage up to 85 years old
- Consultations with any physician
- Double cash payment in case of death caused by an earthquake

Type	*Benefits*
Broken Bones, Burns, Internal Injuries.	P 250,000
Accidental Death	P 2,000,000
Weekly Hospital Cash for Accidents	P 25,000
Permanent Total Disability	P 2,000,000
Double Cash Payment	P 2,000,000

Other plans are also available.

20% discount

Underwritten by
PHILAM INSURANCE
AIG A Member of American International Group, Inc.

30-DAY Money back Guarantee
If within 30 days from the date we receive your application, you change your mind about CARE, simply write us and we'll immediately return your premium to you.

Ref. No: IN0509

Our fully-trained Customer Representatives are ready to assist you.

FREE CALL! 1-800-1000-50-2-75
Want care? Tawag na!

If you are a non-PLDT subscriber, a cell phone subscriber, or if you have any difficulty in contacting us on our 1-800 number, please call (02) 421-4150.